

Meeting Transcript 3

Miami City Commission February 7, 2022

Transcript of excerpt of video recording available at:
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1 Commissioner King: Considering and taking any and all actions related to the
2 redistricting of the City of Miami Commission districts, including but not limited to the drafting
3 of any related maps and boundaries. The members of this commission appearing for this special
4 meeting are Vice Chair Joe Carollo, Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla, Commissioner Ken
5 Russell, Commissioner Manolo Reyes, and myself, Christine King, Chair. Also appearing today
6 are the City Manager, Art Noriega, City Attorney, who's with us today, George Wysong, and
7 City Clerk, Todd Hannon. The special meeting will be opened with a prayer by Commissioner
8 Manolo Reyes.

9 Commissioner Reyes: First of all, I want to thank the Lord for giving us this opportunity,
10 especially me, that I was a victim of COVID and a cold and had to be absent for one of the
11 meetings. And personally, I thank the Lord for giving me this opportunity to serve this beautiful
12 city and the wonderful residents with a great company, which is this commission. Let's pray that
13 our Lord guides us, guides us so we make the right decision, a decision that is just and fair, and
14 we keep representation in the city of Miami for all different groups. That's the most important
15 thing. Lord please guide us so every single, every single resident of the City of Miami when we
16 end our decision feels that is represented and feels that the government is representing them and
17 is working for them. I also want to mention that don't forget to keep in our prayers Officer Biaz,
18 who had an accident, and let's pray that he will be working real fast and be with us in good
19 health. It is. I ask the Lord, in the name of the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Son, Amen.

20 Commissioner King: Amen. The pledge of Allegiance will be led today by Commissioner
21 Russell.

22 Commissioner Russell: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
23 and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice

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1 for all.

2 Commissioner King: The order of the day will be we will first have the presentation by
3 Attorney Miguel De Grandy, and then following his presentation, we will take public comments.
4 Thank you. Oh wait a minute, sorry. City Attorney, please?

5 George Wysong: Yes Madam Chair, thank you. Any person who is a lobbyist pursuant
6 to Chapter 2, Article 6 of the City Code may register with the City Clerk, and comply with the
7 related city requirements for lobbyists before appearing before the City Commission. A person
8 may not lobby a City official, board member, or staff member, until registering. A copy of the
9 code section about lobbyists is available in the City Clerk's office or online at WWW dot Miami
10 Code dot com. Any person making a presentation, formal request, or petition to the City
11 Commission concerning real property must make the disclosures required by the City Code in
12 writing. A copy of this city code section is available at the office of the City Clerk or online at
13 WWW dot Miami Code dot com. The City of Miami requires that any person requesting an
14 action by the City Commission must disclose before the hearing any consideration provided or
15 committed to anyone for agreement to support or withhold objection to the requested action
16 pursuant to City Code section 2-8. Any documents offered to the City Commissioners that have
17 not been provided 7-days before the meeting as part of the agenda materials will be entered into
18 the record at the City Commission's discretion.

19 In accordance with section 2-33 F and G of the City Code, the agenda and materials for
20 the item on the agenda is available during business hours at the City Clerk's office and online 24
21 hours a day at WWW dot Miami Gov dot com. Any person may be heard by the City
22 Commission through the Chair for not more than 2 minutes on any proposition before the City
23 Commission unless modified by the Chair. The public comment will begin and remain open until

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1 public comment is closed by the Chair. Members of the public wishing to address the body may
2 do so by submitting written comments via the online comment form. Please visit WWW dot
3 Miami Gov dot com slash meeting instructions for detailed instructions on how to provide public
4 comment using the online public comment form. The comments submitted through the comment
5 form have been and will be distributed to elected officials and city administration throughout the
6 day so that the elected officials can consider the comments prior to taking any action.
7 Additionally, the online comment form will remain open during the meeting to accept comments
8 and distribute to the elected officials up until the Chairperson closes public comment. Public
9 comment may also be provided live at City Hall, located here, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami
10 Florida, subject to any and all city rules as they may be amended. Speakers and attendees who
11 appear in person will be subject to screening for symptoms of COVID-19. Any person exhibiting
12 any symptoms will not be permitted to enter City Hall. Members of the public shall observe
13 social distancing requirements to the extent possible to ensure social distancing. During this
14 meeting, there will be limited seating inside the Commission chambers and reduced occupancy
15 limit. In addition, members of the public are reminded to stay at least six feet away from
16 individuals who do not live in the same household. The city has set up facilities for those who
17 are unable to enter City Hall once the reduced occupancy limits has been reached to be able to
18 attend the meeting and provide public comment.

19 If the proposition is being continued or rescheduled, the opportunity to be heard may be
20 at such a later date before the City Commission takes action on such a proposition. When
21 addressing the City Commission, the member of the public must first state his or her name, his
22 or her address, and what item will be spoken about. Any person with a disability requiring
23 assistance, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting may notify the City Clerk. The City has

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1 provided different public comment methods to indicate, among other things, the public support,
2 opposition, or neutrality on the items and topics to be discussed at this City Commission in
3 compliance with section 286.0114(4)(c), Florida Statutes. The public has been given the
4 opportunity to provide public comment during the meeting and within reasonable proximity and
5 time before the meeting. Please note, Commissioners have generally been briefed by staff and
6 City Attorney on items on this agenda today. Anyone wishing to appeal any decision made by
7 the City Commission for any matter considered at this meeting may need a verbatim record of
8 the item, a video of this meeting may be requested at the Office of Communications or viewed
9 online at WWW dot Miami Gov dot com. The meeting can be viewed live on Miami TV, Miami
10 Gov dot com slash TV, the City's Facebook page, the City's Twitter page, the City's YouTube
11 channel, and Comcast channel 77. The broadcast will also have closed captioning. Thank you.

12 Commissioner King: That was certainly a mouth full. Mr Grandy, are you ready to
13 present?

14 Miguel De Grandy: Yes ma'am.

15 Commissioner King: Please go ahead.

16 Mr. De Grandy: Thank you. Good morning Madam Chair and Commissioners. The
17 purpose of today's meeting is to present a preliminary plan, and I emphasize preliminary, for
18 your consideration. Mr. Cody and I will be making a brief, approximately 15 minute powerpoint
19 presentation to present the preliminary plan and the rationale behind the movements we made.
20 During the presentation, we will display both data and maps on screen. Now, it may move a little
21 fast, but after we conclude, we can take as much time as you like to go back to the different
22 slides. Now, certainly, this is your commission, you can proceed as you see fit, but I would
23 respectfully suggest you allow me to go through the entire presentation first in order to provide

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1 an overall explanation of the plan. And after my presentation, we can take as much time as you
2 want for questions or to review slides. Now, ultimately, this Commission will discuss the plan
3 and provide us with additional direction as to what additional changes, if any, you would like to
4 see and that will be brought to the Commission at a subsequent date as a final plan. Now, as I
5 said on previous discussions, there are literally thousands of ways to craft a constitutionally
6 compliant plan and that's why we ask for your guidance as to the traditional redistricting
7 principles you wanted us to utilize and their order of importance so that this commission's
8 directives can guide how we approach the project. Let's go over those traditional redistricting
9 principles again. Next slide.

10 The prime directive will always be compliance with the constitution and the Voting
11 Rights Act. But additionally, this commission by consensus directed that the following principles
12 be employed in the following order of importance. First, maintain the core of existing districts
13 to avoid voter confusion. Second, factor in voter cohesion. Next, achieve substantial equality of
14 population as opposed to mathematical equality. And finally, maintain traditional neighborhoods
15 and communities of interest when feasible. Let's talk first about population numbers and
16 compliance with legal principles. Your current plan has an over 42% overall deviation, which
17 means that it is malapportioned and cannot be used in future elections. The preliminary plan we
18 will present today has an overall deviation of 3.8 and meets all constitutional and Voting Rights
19 Act parameters. As we discussed previously, the courts do allow for up to a 10% overall
20 deviation, but the case law informs that such deviations must have a rational basis. Now the
21 deviations we did can easily be explained from a legal perspective, but there are also political
22 and other considerations that can provide a rational basis for larger deviations. And those
23 decisions are the province of you, as elected officials, to make. One of the reasons our

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1 preliminary plan has a small deviation is to provide sufficient latitude for you, as the city's
2 elected officials, to make any additional changes based on the knowledge that you have as a
3 result of the communities you represent. My role in that regard will be to let you know whether
4 any additional changes you want to make comply with the law.

5 Now let's look at some numbers so I can better explain how we arrived at our deviations
6 and then we can look at the plans. District 1 is at a 0.35% deviation which is 311 residents above
7 the ideal. It has an 87.38% Hispanic population, with 88.7% Hispanic voting age population. It
8 clearly complies with the Voting Rights Act. District 2 has -0.02% deviation, which is just 21
9 people short of the ideal population. As you know, we had to remove roughly 28,000 people
10 from the district to comply with legal and constitutional requirements. District 2 remains a swing
11 district, with 37.2% white, non-Hispanic population, 8% Black population, and roughly 48%
12 Hispanic population. The voting age percentages are almost the same as the total population
13 percentages.

14 Commissioner Russell: Madam Chair, I have a question, I'm just unclear. Is this the draft
15 or is this the current?

16 Mr. De Grandy: This is the draft plan.

17 Commissioner Russell: Okay. We're not going through what the current statistics are,
18 this is what you're presenting as the draft..

19 Mr. De Grandy: Right.

20 Commissioner Russell: Thank you, I just wanted clarification.

21 Commissioner King: Yes, and if we could hold all of our questions until after his
22 presentation, just jot them down so he can finish the presentation, and then we'll get through
23 with our questions. I'm going to allow the public to speak after his presentation, and then we'll

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1 be able to discuss.

2 Commissioner Russell: Thank you Chairwoman.

3 Commissioner King: Okay.

4 Mr. De Grandy: As I was saying, we purposely tried to get the population of D2 at near
5 zero deviation because this is where much of the new development activity is occurring and as
6 in the last decade, it will probably grow faster than any other districts. District 3 is slightly under
7 populated at 0.98% or 864 people under the ideal population. District 3 has an 87.4% Hispanic
8 population, and 88.4% Hispanic voting age population. Consistent with the Voting Rights Act,
9 the Hispanic community has an equal opportunity in this district also to elect a candidate of its
10 choice. District 4 has the highest deviation at 2.23% or 1973 residents above the ideal, 86.7% of
11 the population is Hispanic, with 88% Hispanic voting age population.

12 This district also clearly complies with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. Now
13 finally, we underpopulated District 5 by roughly 1.6% under the ideal, basically because bringing
14 in additional population from most any side of the district might reduce the African American
15 population percentage. Additionally, we also felt it was appropriate to underpopulate the district
16 because it may experience significant development activity and growth in the next decade. The
17 proposed D5 is 51.7% African American, with 49.8% Black voting age population. Our analysis
18 of voting patterns indicates the African American community does have an equal opportunity to
19 elect the candidate of its choice.

20 Now let me show you the maps to further illustrate what we discussed. The first slide
21 shows the entire configuration of proposed District 1. As you can see, it maintains the vast
22 majority of the core of the existing district. The next slide shows the area we move from D1 to
23 D3. With this change, we move the area west of NW 22nd Avenue and north of NW 7th Street.

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1 We felt this was a logical move where we could utilize major man-made boundaries such as the
2 Dolphin Expressway to the north and 27th Avenue to the west in order to bring up D3's
3 population. The next slide shows the area we move from D4 into D1, and it spans from 27th to
4 37th Avenue and south from NW 7th Street NW 4th Street. And we did this again, to now
5 rebalance the population of D1. Finally, the last slide shows the area we moved from D5 into
6 D1. And the next slide, which is a little bigger, shows the entire area and a better view of that
7 change. We felt that this movement was needed because this area has a high percentage of
8 Hispanics and greater voter cohesion with D1 residents. Also important is the fact that existing
9 D1 already has the most area of the Miami River budding or within it than any other district, and
10 thus it was logical to extend D1 further down the river as many business constituents in this area
11 are a community of interest with concerns and issues as other businesses up river.

12 The next slide shows the proposed District 2. As you can see, it remains a coastal district
13 spanning almost the entire north-south corridor of the city along the bay. The next slide shows
14 part of the area we moved from D2 to D5 at the northern end. We moved that boundary east
15 from North Miami Avenue to NE 2nd Avenue, and from the I-95 Expressway down to 22nd
16 Street. The next slide continues that eastward movement to NE 2nd Avenue and south from 22nd
17 Street ending at the 395 Expressway. The next slide shows the movement from D2 to D5 at the
18 southern end, moving slightly east to North Miami Avenue from the I-95 south to SE 2nd Street.
19 And as we said before, we could not move further east without affecting the African American
20 population's ability to elect a candidate of its choice in D5, so we had to look south to further
21 depopulate D2. The next slide shows the movements from D2 to D3. This moved the boundary
22 over from US 1 to South Miami Avenue, and from Simpson Park, on the north, to 17th Avenue
23 to the south. Finally, the next slide shows the movement from D2 to D4. It takes into D4 all the

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1 area from SW 25th Street, on the north, to Day Avenue, on the south, spanning from 27th
2 Avenue, from the east, to 37th Avenue and the city limits to the west. The next slide shows the
3 proposed District 3. It also maintains the core of the existing district.

4 The next slide shows the area we moved from D1 to D3, which we already discussed.
5 The next slide shows the area we moved from D4 to D3. It spans from south, from 17th Avenue,
6 going west, to 27th Avenue, and from SW 9th to SW 12th Street. And again, this was done to
7 rebalance the population. In that regard, we tried to find adjacent areas with similar
8 demographics in order to maintain voter cohesion while rebalancing the population. Now finally,
9 the next slide shows us a closer look at the area we brought into D3 from D2, which is south of
10 US 1. And again, it goes from 17th Avenue, north to the end of Simpson Park, moving the
11 boundary down slightly from US 1 to South Miami Avenue. And again, we needed to balance
12 the population.

13 Now, we knew we had to take the population from D2 to equalize it, but we took as little
14 as was needed on the other side of US 1 to reach a low deviation. Now, certainly, whether we
15 cross US 1 into D2 and how much of the growth, if any, should go into other districts, is a policy
16 decision for you all to make. Nevertheless, D3 is still 1% underpopulated, so it can expand to
17 gain more population. The next slide is of the proposed District 4. It remains a highly Hispanic
18 area. The next slide, which we've already seen, shows what we've added to the bottom end of
19 the district.

20 Now, we overpopulated this district at 2.23% over the ideal because it's likely to have
21 the least growth over the next decade. In the event you want to decrease the deviation, you could
22 choose to move some of the excess population into D3 or back into D2. The next slide shows
23 the movement we previously discussed from D4 to D1, and the next slide shows the area we

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1 previously addressed from D4 to D3. Now finally, the next slide shows the proposed District 5.
2 The proposed District 5 also maintains the vast majority of the core of the existing district and it
3 was the most challenging district to develop. Now as you can see there's no way to move north
4 or to most of the northwest because the city boundaries end with D5. Our only options were to
5 move south and across the river into D3, west into D1, or east into D2. Now because of the need
6 to depopulate D2, the eastern movement was the most feasible option. In this slide, you get an
7 overall picture of the slight shift to the east we take from D2, but the next slides, which we
8 previously showed you in the context of D2, provide a more close-up look at the slight
9 movements east that we were able to make. It shifts the boundary, again, east from North Miami
10 Avenue to NE 2nd, and from I-95 to the 395 Expressway.

11 The next slide shows the bottom part of that eastward movement I just explained
12 beginning on NW 22nd Street to the north and down to the 395 Expressway. And this next slide
13 shows the eastward movement south of the 395 Expressway moving slightly east from NW 1st
14 Avenue to North Miami Avenue and southeast to 2nd Street.

15 Now simply stated, we could not move further east without diminishing the African
16 American community's opportunity to elect a candidate of its choice. So we could not take the
17 population of D2 into D5 anymore. And finally, the next slide shows the population we moved
18 from D5 to D1 along the river. Now, that was essential because as you moved east into D2 there
19 was less and less African American population likewise in that area which is existing D2, most
20 of it, it was highly Hispanic. So it was more or less a tradeoff. Also moving this area into D1
21 was consistent with the Voting Rights Act and that it moved this Hispanic community into a
22 district where they could also participate in electing a candidate of their choice. Finally, this last
23 slide gives you an overview of the entire plan. In summary, we're confident that our preliminary

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1 plan complies with constitutional and Voting Rights Act criteria. We were also cognizant of the
2 additional directives you gave us. As you've seen, every district maintains its core configuration,
3 and the vast majority of its existing population. We tried as much as possible to move areas into
4 districts with similar voting patterns and voter cohesion. We presented a preliminary plan with
5 a low, overall deviation in order to give you, as policy makers, the flexibility to make additional
6 changes. And we tried wherever possible to maintain communities of interest and traditional
7 neighborhoods, although quite frankly, that was not completely possible due to the overriding
8 need of balancing population. It is however a work in progress that provides flexibility to make
9 additional changes, so long as those changes have a rational basis and comply with the law. And
10 with that, Madam Chair, I'm happy to address any questions you may have, either before or after
11 public comment.

12 Commissioner King: I'd like to take public comments now if there are any. Is anyone
13 here that would like to make a public comment, please line up at the podiums. Go right ahead
14 sir.

15 Chuck Walter: Hi, thank you Madam Chair. My name is Chuck Walter, I live at 1901
16 Brickell Avenue. I think we're at a historic time for Miami. We've seen unprecedented economic
17 development, and thanks to the great leadership of Miami, and the ability to promote Miami as
18 a world class city. Thank you to you all. I live in an area that's in District 2, and this notion of a
19 coastal district seems very strange to me. The idea that people from down south is Coconut
20 Grove to my area in Brickell going up to midtown and beyond, does not feel like a community.
21 And my girls go to public school at Coral Way Elementary. I would love to see an opportunity
22 where other districts are able to take on some of that economic opportunity that we're seeing to
23 the east. And look at an opportunity to create a district map that prepares us for the future where

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1 more of our districts have that inclusion of economic opportunity. I think that as the other
2 districts continue to encroach on District 2, we are seeing a way of destroying community, in a
3 sense, and maybe this is an opportunity to actually take a look at it from fresh eyes, and
4 potentially consider a district with Coconut Grove to the north and a district that has downtown
5 and Brickell, and areas surrounding, and an area from Wynwood to the north. I just think I
6 understand a lot of the reasons why the map has been presented the way it has been, but maybe
7 there's a chance for fresh eyes.

8 Commissioner King: Thank you. Sir?

9 Tony Scornavacca: Good morning, my name is Tony Scornavacca. Commissioner
10 Reyes, Commissioner Carollo, Commissioner King, Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla, and
11 Commissioner Russell. I am opposed to this redistricting plan. It breaks up Coconut Grove,
12 there's a lot of folks here from Coconut Grove and from all the other districts, but Coconut Grove
13 is one community right now, and has been for —

14 Commissioner King: Please hold your comments, thank you. Please hold your comments.

15 Tony Scornavacca: Coconut Grove has been this way for probably older than any other
16 neighborhood in the city of Miami. We love it the way it is and I noticed this redistricting map
17 would have a person, for instance, who lives on Day Avenue, which is a quiet residential street,
18 their neighbor across the street would be in a different district, which to me makes no sense, and
19 I think to anybody it makes no sense. Another part of this plan, which I think is improper,
20 especially in today's climate. It removes a portion of our Black community, which appears, and
21 I'm not saying that this is, and I'm sure this is not the intent to make Coconut Grove more white,
22 we don't like that, we like Coconut Grove the way it is, we like all of our neighbors the way they
23 are. And the redistricting, yes, I heard the part about every community needing the opportunity

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1 to elect the commissioner of their choice, and I don't see how changing the boundaries in this
2 proposal would affect that result in Coconut Grove. In my opinion and many of our neighbors'
3 opinions, since we've had five commissioners here, since the city of Miami had probably 70,000
4 residents, we feel that it's time to have —

5 Commissioner King: Thank you.

6 Tony Scornavacca: — seven commissioners with seven districts, thank you.

7 Commissioner King: Please hold your applause, please hold your applause. Sir.

8 Andre Sartarve: Andre Sartarve [SP], 1900 North Bayshore. Commissioners, the
9 redistricting is your decision, and it's going to be your decision, but it's going to be your decision
10 for the next 10 years.

11 We, everybody I talk to, think that they absolutely didn't have enough information,
12 definitely, we didn't have any information. We're totally confused and I don't want to pass
13 judgment on if this is good or bad because we haven't had any time to analyze and even to
14 discuss. The state did the same 10 years ago, the redistricting committee traveled to different
15 cities and received input from the communities, and even then, they couldn't avoid lawsuits.
16 This time the state is doing the same as the city commission, kind of not receiving input from
17 the communities that they are affecting. The input from the community also means that probably
18 there's some good ideas out there and they have to have the opportunity to express those ideas.
19 I don't know if it is in the plans to have town halls or any form of allowing community input,
20 but we believe that you should before you make your final decision. Thank you.

21 Commissioner King: Thank you, and let me clear up for everyone that has his same
22 impression. This is a draft that is being presented to the commission, and after we discuss and
23 give Attorney De Grandy some more direction, we will all take this plan to our communities for

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1 input. Everyone will have an opportunity to have input on what is going on with the redistricting
2 in the city of Miami. Right now, this is a preliminary plan that we wanted to include the
3 community in, but by all means, all of us will be taking this plan to our districts so that we can
4 have input from our communities. Rest assured that will happen. Sir?

5 Albert Gomez: Thank you very much. Albert Gomez, 3566 Vista Court, District 2. I'm
6 a 20-year Grove resident. I think the Grove, in its north, south, east, west difference, makes it
7 one. It unifies the Grove. We have a little bit of everything here. One thing I don't see is that,
8 and I see it from the county, and before I say that, I would have to say that, I would have to parrot
9 our friend from Brickell's voice, regardless of the future plans to make a plan to do outreach,
10 you lead with that. Put your schedules in place, everyone knows what's happening, that we're
11 going to have 7 town halls that we're going to have 1 in each district.

12 All that comes out in a master plan of this redistricting, not necessarily on the fly or after
13 the fact. And I would appreciate it if we could do that, we concoct and bake the full plan before
14 we go ahead and start doing these carve outs. More specifically, also, when we use large
15 thoroughfares as breaks, if that's going to be the premise of breaking, then let's use that across
16 the board, let's not split communities in some areas, and then use large highways in other areas.
17 And then finally, the county itself is moving to a watershed governance model. They hired 1
18 water person, they're looking at Federal, State, and Regional, and local money on how it's going
19 to go through the watershed. I don't see any of those threats and vulnerabilities addressed here,
20 we're just trying to mix and match. Whereas some people are going to get strapped more than
21 others based on the impending threats and vulnerabilities of hurricanes and floods, and things
22 that are coming. We should look at that as well, because we have general obligation bond money
23 that's going to be put forth in a time frame where some of you might be actually representing

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1 people that do not actually, did not actually vote for you. That is something that needs to be
2 addressed, and I think that we don't want taxation without representation here.

3 Commissioner King: Thank you, thank you.

4 Katrina Morris: Hi, I'm Katrina Morris, 4130 Lybyer Avenue. I do appreciate you letting
5 us know that there will be public comment or public discourse would be really nice. Questions,
6 answers, back and forth, with the public, who you guys represent. I don't know where we're
7 getting, I hate to say, I hate to have to say, aren't we a government of the people, by the people,
8 for the people? It would be really nice if, I understand that this map was drawn up, that we had
9 it, and it was a choice that this body made, or the attorney that this body hired to represent them,
10 not to release it to the public before this meeting.

11 Then to put up these maps in a five-minute presentation and go we're taking this from
12 here and putting this from here, and then this over here, and then this over here. With statistics
13 and deviations, I'm sorry, we are the public, we are not the experts, but we do know where our
14 neighborhoods lie. And our neighborhoods in District 2, it looks huge because in the map, the
15 peach part encompasses a whole bunch of water, it's really just this little silver, okay, but it is 3
16 distinct neighborhoods. There's Edgewater and Little River, down to 395, then there's 395 down
17 to Rickenbacker, those are, and then Rickenbacker south. Those are three distinct neighborhoods
18 with cohesive concerns. If we can add 2 commissioners, we want to break it up at all, I recognize
19 it's a very large swath. If we're going to do that, let's break it up by neighborhood.

20 Commissioner King: Thank you.

21 Katrina Morris: Thank you.

22 Maria Freed: Hi, Maria Freed, 3055 Washington Street. I just wanted the Commissioners
23 to know that I don't want Coconut Grove separated. And that includes Bay Heights, West Grove,

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1 we are one. We are one Grove. We're very comfortable with whatever cultural or demographic
2 differences we may have. I urge you to please think of us as a whole, traditionally, culturally,
3 we belong together. Thank you.

4 Commissioner King: Thank you. Please, I've asked you like three times not to clap. The
5 next time someone claps, you're going to be removed from the commission chambers. Thank
6 you. Ma'am.

7 Willie Allen-Faiella: Good afternoon, Pastor Willie Allen-Faiella, Rector of Saint
8 Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2170 McFarlane Road. And I'm here to speak on behalf of, I'm
9 also on the pastors board of the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, and I am here to speak
10 against jettisoning the West Grove into what would be a predominantly Hispanic district. In your
11 opening prayer Commissioner Reyes, you prayed for God's guidance that equal representation
12 rule your decision-making. Effectively jettisoning the West Grove, the historic Grove, the oldest
13 part of Miami, into a predominantly Latin, Hispanic neighborhood would disenfranchise the
14 Bahamian American community that helped build Miami.

15 The Grove is one, as you've been hearing from all of us, and I speak in favor of keeping
16 the Coconut Grove area intact. The growth has taken place in parts, other parts of District 2, not
17 in Coconut Grove, and I suggest that when you sharpen your pencils, you take a look at moving
18 parts where, moving where the population growth has occurred rather than the stable and unified
19 community of Coconut Grove. Thank you.

20 Commissioner King: Thank you.

21 Commissioner Carollo: Excuse me, Chair?

22 Commissioner King: Commissioner Carollo, let's just let them go.

23 Commissioner Carollo: I just heard something here —

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1 Commissioner King: We're going to hear a lot —

2 Commissioner Carollo: — up to, I'm amazed that it's coming from someone from the
3 cloth, so if you're sending what they're claiming is a sliver, and I don't know if it's true or not,
4 of the Black part of Coconut Grove to a district that's Hispanic, this disenfranchises them.

5 Commissioner King: I understand.

6 Commissioner Carollo: But then — My — if you leave it in an Anglo area, that's not.
7 But I have to ask a question, how many African Americans have ever been elected in the district,
8 in the district of D2?

9 Commissioner King: Wait, I don't want to have a back and forth.

10 Willie Allen-Faiella: Not zero.

11 Commissioner Carollo: Zero.

12 Willie Allen-Faiella: No.

13 Commissioner Carollo: The only time there was an African American that represented—

14 Willie Allen-Faiella: Theodore Gibson and his wife.

15 Commissioner Carollo: Was when I appointed Thelma Gibson, when I appointed, with
16 the Commission, I went, brought her by the hand, as she said herself here, and I asked my
17 colleagues to name her —

18 Willie Allen-Faiella: After her husband's death, he was elected.

19 Commissioner King: Commissioner, excuse me.

20 Commissioner Carollo: He was never elected.

21 Commissioner King: Commissioner, we are going to allow the public comments to go
22 without us opining on what is being said, and we'll have our comments afterward because not
23 everyone is going to say whatever we think or whatever we agree, but I just want the public to

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1 get their comments out.

2 Commissioner Carollo: And you're right, I'm sorry. I just had to put that into the record.

3 Commissioner King: Thank you.

4 Commissioner Carollo: Because we're a city of over 450,000 and we have less than 50
5 people here to talk. Less than 50.

6 Commissioner King: Thank you.

7 Willie Allen-Faiella: You don't have anything further for me?

8 Commissioner King: No, I don't have anything further.

9 Willie Allen Faiella: Thank you so much.

10 Commissioner King: Please, go ahead.

11 Lisa Remeny: Good afternoon Commission and ladies and gentlemen of the audience. I
12 am Lisa Remeny, I am a native Miamian, I am a 30 plus year resident of Coconut Grove, almost
13 40 years, back and forth. I strongly oppose this proposition to redistrict Coconut Grove and other
14 sections of Miami. This is a community, it does not need to be divided, we need unification, not
15 division. And I echo the words of Pastor Willie, Mr. Scornavacca, and everyone who's preceded
16 me, this is preposterous, really. Thank you.

17 Commissioner King: Thank you. Sir?

18 Bernard Fenord: Good morning commission, Minister Bernard Fenord [SP], Believers of
19 Authority Ministries, 3655 Grand Avenue. I'm here on behalf of Apostle Dr. Chambers, senior
20 pastor, Believers of Authority, and president of the Ministerial Alliance. We are here to express
21 any opposition to a plan that would separate Coconut Grove into individual parts or any
22 segmented parts. Coconut Grove, as it has been stated, has been a pillar of the city of Miami for
23 a long period of time. Any plan that would cause a separation of this community, warts and all,

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1 is an indictment to this commission and would be really a controversy and a travesty to the work
2 that has been done and especially the work that has been done by Commissioner Russell. Thank
3 you.

4 Commissioner King: Thank you. Ma'am.

5 Delores Gutierrez: Good morning, Commissioners and everyone, can you hear me? My
6 name is Delores Gutierrez. I'm here on behalf of the Brickell Homeowners Association to read
7 the Director Abby Apé's statement. Here it goes. My name is Abby, obviously it's Delores, the
8 director of Brickell Homeowners. I'm unable to attend physically, but I'm tuning in online and
9 eager to hear what you are proposing in today's meeting. Commissioner Russell, as you know,
10 we're constantly working with your office and we have a long list of issues in our community.
11 Given the issues that we are facing, it would benefit us to have our own commissioner. Brickell
12 is a vertical city, which brings great benefit to the city of Miami, but we often feel that the issues
13 that come with living in a vertical city are left to the building and its management. For example,
14 the streets by the access 11th and 1st, have a lot of potholes due to construction. We need more
15 crosswalks, police enforcement, and pedestrian safety. We need more trashcans, enforcement of
16 dog poop, traffic lights with pedestrian signs, and better management of traffic lights
17 synchronized with the Brickell Bridge. Better care of the streets when a building is being built
18 such as Una Construction on SE 25th and so on. This is not to say the city isn't of help, this is to
19 point out that the issues are numerous and we need additional resources into a high density and
20 populated area. Again, please consider giving Brickell its own commissioner. Thank you all for
21 your service.

22 Commissioner King: Thank you. Sir.

23 Willie Ford Jr.: Good afternoon Commissioners, my name is the Reverend Willie Ford

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1 Jr., Saint Matthew Community Missionary Baptist Church, 3616 Day Avenue, in the wonderful
2 Coconut Grove Village West community. I stand with, behind, and I hold up my sister of the
3 cloth, Willie Faiella for the comments that she made. The Coconut Grove community has been
4 diminishing physically for years now is about to be diminished in this voting power.

5 I stand with her to oppose any and all plans, or just the thought of a plan that would take
6 the African American community away from a community that was always intended from day
7 one to be one whole community. We've already separated from Coconut Grove to Village West,
8 which is a separation. Our community residents have been displaced and have not come back.
9 There's vacant land, we've always been treated badly, and now we want to oppose anything that
10 would take away our voting rights and power to do so. And that was my comment, I oppose it
11 in Jesus name, thank you.

12 Commissioner King: Thank you.

13 Marcela Fernandez: Good morning Commissioners, Marcela Fernandez, lifer in the
14 Grove, raised here, went to school here, has business here. Also, I'm the acting chair of the
15 Coconut Grove Village Council for the last 4 years and just re-elected again this past November
16 for another term. And redistricting is very important. I think it's something that has to be done
17 to keep check and balances on a city growing. I get it, and it's needed. And thanks for hiring an
18 attorney firm to bring the facts because without, this is a very important decision, without the
19 facts, it's very difficult to make a proper one. One thing I would like to add is I didn't see
20 anything in the current proposal about existing conditions. If you wait to see what the existing
21 conditions and how they come to be proposed, I'd like to see that, it could be shown to the
22 people.

23 Also, they mentioned that there can be a variation of up to 10% per district with reason.

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1 D2 right now is less than 1%, so I think there's lots of room to adjust that based on our
2 communities we have here. Also, I think we should look at school board, county, and state
3 boundaries, to kind of match those and see if that makes sense to keep things community. About
4 the Grove, all the people have spoken eloquently about not splitting it up, and I agree with them.
5 The City of Miami has three neighborhood conservation districts, two are in the Grove, and in
6 that proposed plan both are being split up. That's not part of a neighborhood conservation
7 district.

8 They need to be kept together. Just in the last few days, we received 300 letters opposing
9 the splitting of the Grove and that count is growing, we are a unified source. Also, the Village
10 Council is the only place in the city that has an elected board by the people for keeping the
11 neighborhood preserved. You will be splitting the Village Council also, and by the way, the
12 Village Council has been around for over 20 years, and there have been many council members
13 who were Black residents and represented, and currently we have at least 30% or more every
14 single year. Thank you very much.

15 Commissioner King: Thank you.

16 Marisol Zenteno: Good afternoon Madam Chairwoman King, I appreciate your
17 leadership and controlling your city hall and for giving us a chance to express ourselves before
18 you all get a chance to speak. My name is Marisol Zenteno. I am here with the League of Women
19 Voters of Miami-Dade, I am also a member and partner with the Coconut Grove Ministerial
20 Alliance, of which you've seen such a great presence over here. And we want to echo the same
21 thing. The transparency in this process, I am so glad that you made us aware that this is just a
22 preliminary map and more things will be coming out. It will be great to see maybe a portal on
23 your website where people can go and look at the maps. Right now, people had to get up in order

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1 to see where the areas would be affected and there wasn't really enough time to see what's
2 happening. Ahead of time, and then you go out into the communities, the way it was suggested.
3 In addition, I would like to say that to see the report, how the units, the areas will be affected. I
4 am here also because of the West Grove area and the largely African American area in District
5 2. By moving it up or switching it to a Commissioner Reyes area, no problem, but the problem
6 is that it's a part of the Voting Rights Act and for it to maintain the correct, within tiers 1 and
7 tiers 2, that community needs to be well represented. By shifting it at 86% according to what
8 Mr. De Grandy said to a 80% voting population in District 4. The African American vote of
9 District 2 and the West Grove area is going to dilute. Right now, where they're at, they're able
10 to pick and be part, any Commissioner that is looking forward to being elected in Commission
11 2 would have to go and has to go to the Coconut Grove and West Grove area.

12 Commissioner King: Thank you.

13 Marisol Zenteno: Thank you. Thank you for your time.

14 Commissioner King: Thank you. Good afternoon.

15 Rose Fountain: Hi, my name is Rose Fountain, and I'm from Coconut Grove, Coconut
16 Grove Village West. Coconut Grove is a unique community, and what we must not lose sight of
17 and when we voice ourselves is to know that it is Miami's history. It is part of the Bahamians,
18 the settlement, the southern Blacks. And to say that redistricting would better this for us, we have
19 rezoning, and to me, rezoning is the redistricting of Coconut Grove. If you look at the Bird
20 Road/Carter, you will realize what actually took place in the community and why we chose as a
21 community to update and upgrade ourselves. I believe in what they are doing, the transitioning,
22 but you have to realize that this transition has already happened. I looked at the mapping, and
23 what the plans are, and it's not about the economic disparities, it is about human beings. The

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1 right to vote, the economical values, the social values, of the people that are progressing in our
2 community. Having said that, we have already been redistricted, we're rezoned, and we are still
3 incomplete. We have preservation on our agenda, and we haven't completed Grand Avenue, and
4 I know it takes time, it's not an oversight, and it won't be over night. I understand.

5 Commissioner King: Thank you.

6 Linda Williams: Good afternoon Commissioners, Madam King. I'm Linda Williams,
7 temporarily at 3517 Hibiscus Street, here in Coconut Grove. I come before you as a resident,
8 born and here 68 years, proudly. I'm also a community activist and I listen. Redistricting, any
9 part thereof, especially Village West, is not in favor. Our community has concerns as it relates
10 to voting, where do we go? Taxation, schools, boundaries, as the NCD-2 remain effective? Does
11 the CRA become affected? Questions that have been asked of me, what are the benefits to the
12 people that are impacted by this divide. Is it political? We'd all like to know. Lack of information
13 spurs distrust. Are you for the people, the voices are being heard. Lastly, I request that this
14 thought be deferred until additional information and to see the table to discuss this matter more
15 clearly. Thank you for your time in your fight today.

16 Commissioner King: Thank you. Sir.

17 Reynold Martin: Good morning Commissioners. I'm Reynold Martin from the Coconut
18 Grove area, representing several organizations, including the one that Ms. Williams spoke about.
19 I'm sorry, I'm from the Coconut Grove area, a Bahamian family that's been here since the early
20 2000's, late 2000's, 1800's excuse me. And I'd like to read to you a letter from the NAACP,
21 who represents the Coconut Grove area, South Dade Branch of the NAACP. It states that the
22 NAACP holds the rights of the Black communities to vote in conditions that results in its voice
23 being heard as the greatest right that this democracy offers.

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1 Therefore, the South Dade Branch of the NAACP is concerned about redistricting West
2 Grove, which has been part of Coconut Grove since before there was a city of Miami. We will
3 be closely following the redistricting of the city of Miami Commission activities. Signed by
4 President Senator Dwight Bullard, Secretary Dr. Brad Brown, the iconic General Counsel
5 Anthony Alfieri from the University of Miami Law School. We oppose anything that removes
6 the area of the Grove as a unit. We work together as a family and we'd like to stay that way.
7 Thank you.

8 Commissioner King: Thank you. Ma'am?

9 Clarice Cooper: Good morning Commissioners. My name is Clarice Cooper, I live at
10 3735 Oak Avenue in beautiful Coconut Grove, and I would like to read parts of a letter that you
11 should all have copies of from our organization. The executive board of the Coconut Grove
12 Village West Homeowners and Tenants Association, also known as HOTA, hereby declare its
13 disapproval of the truncation of Coconut Grove to satisfy the district boundary adjustments that
14 the Miami City Commission is charged to resolve regarding District 2 and all of your districts.

15 HOTA was established in 1954 to serve and protect the concerns and interests of the
16 overwhelmingly African American residents who descended from the original Bahamian
17 settlers, one of which I am, and migrants from north and central Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and
18 South Carolina. These hard working, law abiding people did continue to thrive and make a life
19 for their families in the grove, and some of those qualities were passed down to people who still
20 live in the Grove, like myself and several others who are present today. Removal of any part of
21 the Coconut Grove Village West from District 2 to be in and next to an adjoining district will
22 place in jeopardy the painstaking strides for improvements and revitalization that has been made
23 towards regarding the West Grove community redevelopment agency. Also known as the CRA

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1 and also for the NCD-2, which was put in place to protect and preserve our architectural integrity.
2 An agenda item such as this should be given more importance considering that Coconut Grove
3 is the city's oldest neighborhood. This shouldn't be treated the way it's been presented here
4 today, where we didn't really have an opportunity to first hear what was going to happen, and
5 you should have more meetings so that we could enlighten other members of the community.
6 Finally, we are requesting that the commission withhold any deliberations on this topic until
7 Coconut Grove residents have been fully apprised of the details and how the end will affect us.

8 Commissioner King: Thank you.

9 Clarice Cooper: Thank you.

10 Renee Schafer: Hello, Renee Schafer, 2571 Lincoln, Coconut Grove.

11 I've been a resident for 50 years and the word community is what I think Coconut Grove
12 is all about. It is a common unity and we wish to keep it that way. It's important to us. As you
13 have large families with aunts, uncles and cousins, that's how we view each other.

14 We do not wish any of our area to be taken away. We are opposed to the current
15 possibility of redistricting. We look forward to seeing the maps as they exist at this time and to
16 being involved in further conversation on this. We would like any voting on this to be postponed
17 to a future time.

18 Commissioner King: Thank you.

19 Marci Weber: My name is Marci Weber, 2525 Swanson Avenue, North Grove. I only
20 just heard about this and I appreciate having the opportunity to speak.

21 I love the Grove. I'm from New York. I moved here almost 20 years ago and one of the
22 beautiful things about this place is it's very much like New York. It's got everything. It's got
23 Cubans, it's got people of Colombia, it's got people from New York, it's got Black people, it's

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1 got white people. It's got everything and it's got the restaurants, too.

2 Most importantly, it has a sense of incredible community and love and I know that that
3 might sound silly these days of division, but I love this place. I never wanna go back to New
4 York and I am a New Yorker, born-and-bred, and this place has so much possibility. As we
5 grow, let's grow with unity. Let's not look to divide. Let's find out what the problems are for
6 redistricting.

7 I don't understand and I'd love to know more. I wanna know what is the need for
8 redistricting: because we need another commissioner or it's too big? New York City's gigantic
9 but still it finds a way, Brooklyn finds a way, everybody. This is a neighborhood. Coconut
10 Grove's like Bensonhurst or Bed-Stuy. It doesn't matter or Park Slope. This is a unified
11 community that has such beautiful history and amazing people, artists, and it's so incredible. It's
12 a diamond. Why look to break it up? The people make it.

13 I'm against it but I'm looking forward to workgroups because I don't understand a damn
14 thing those maps said. Thank you.

15 Commissioner King: Thank you.

16 M Speaker: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, commission. I thank you for this opportunity.

17 We have single-member districts because at one time we weren't gonna have a person of
18 color to serve for the city of Miami, right? About 15 years ago, give or take a year or two, we
19 didn't have representation sitting there for District 5. If you go back, you'll check that in a short
20 period of time we didn't have representation.

21 I'm afraid when I listen to him say African-American community only has 51% in the
22 Black community in District 5. That means if you go east or west, our 51% is going to be
23 threatened. Think about it. We only make up 51% in our own community, so if you go east or

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1 west in District 5, where's that going to leave us? Probably with no representation.

2 I would think that we look at going north in the Liberty City area of District, which will
3 probably save the representation. I know for some people, they don't care, but I care that we
4 have someone that looks like me representing us in District 5. Thank you.

5 Commissioner King: Thank you.

6 Mickey Mercel: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Mickey Mercel and I live at 2542
7 Swanson and I'd like to say I'm originally from Miami Beach and I've lived there all my life
8 except for the four years I've lived in Coconut Grove. I gotta tell you I never thought I would
9 leave Miami Beach but Coconut Grove is outstanding. It is just such a diverse community. We
10 go out and we go to all sections of the Grove and we just love it and really don't wanna change
11 it.

12 Another note, I think the residents of Coconut Grove in this room and at home watching
13 on television would appreciate it in the future and I don't know what's happened in the past
14 meetings that we start the meetings on time. Some people have left work to be here an hour late
15 so I just wanna go on record to say that. Thank you very much.

16 Commissioner King: Thank you.

17 Joshua Abril: Hi, all. I'm Joshua Abril. I live here in the Grove and I'm learning about
18 everything for the first time. I'm kinda learning as I watch but three things I wanted to mention
19 per what I saw from the map. One concerns North and Center Grove where if the line's drawn
20 at Day, if the 836 is a significant boundary, which I agree with, US 1 seems to me more
21 significant because to break it up at Day is almost like breaking up districts at 8th Street. We're
22 talking about things that, from one side to the other, these are matters that will concern the
23 neighbors immediately across the street. There's a much bigger divide by US 1 concerning the

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1 interests of the neighbors and the architecture within the community.

2 The second one is for example my dad's Cuban, my mom's American, I'm born in
3 Miami. Obviously, I'm American but, ethnically, I'm not really sure where I fall. When it comes
4 to neighborhoods like West Grove, we all feel very much community and I don't know how
5 appropriate it is to say this but we're talking about a neighborhood that has the demographic that
6 it has because it was mandated at one. There's a certain sensitivity I feel should be taken into
7 account there.

8 Even aside from that, breaking up the neighborhood of Coconut Grove, growing up in
9 Miami, we've always had a lack of history because the city gets rebuilt every 10 years and
10 Coconut Grove being the most historic neighborhood, it holds the keeping together of the
11 neighborhood in a certain zone for a lotta people I would say.

12 Just those three things, I just wanted to bring it up just because I saw it. This is my first
13 time seeing the map. Cheers.

14 Commissioner King: Thank you.

15 Neil Shiger: Good morning. It's still morning. Neil Shiger, 3095 Plaza, lifetime resident
16 of Coconut Grove.

17 Clearly, when it comes to the Black community of Coconut Grove, clearly,
18 Commissioner Reyes and Commission Russell, you've got your work cut out for you on this
19 matter. I would support whatever the district commissioner supports. I would support whatever
20 the Ministerial Alliance supports. I would support whatever the Homeowners and Tenants
21 Association supports, but we have to be real about it and deal with the facts.

22 I'll just end on a little, simple story because I don't have some of the same fears they
23 have but I have to support them because we are one community. When I graduated from Coral

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1 Gables Senior High, they told me I was from Coconut Grove. When I graduated from Florida
2 State, they told me I was from the South Grove. When I graduated from the University of Miami,
3 they told me I lived in the Village. Now they're telling me I live in the West Grove. My address
4 never changed.

5 This one grove, while laudable and aspirational, has never really been the true intent and
6 has harmed this community. Prior to your arrival, Commissioner Russell, we were in trouble.
7 You have done more than any once we start doing district elections to eradicate some of these
8 barriers, so whatever you guys end up with, I don't have fears of the Hispanic community
9 because I have been dealing with my white residents for years and while we are socially kind to
10 each other, my community is still dying. Thank you.

11 Commissioner King: Thank you.

12 Reverend Nathaniel Robinson III: Good morning, my name is Reverend Nathaniel
13 Robinson III. I'm the senior pastor of Greater Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in
14 Coconut Grove. I'm also the chair of Grove Rights and Community Equity and a board member
15 of the Ministerial Alliance.

16 I, too, stand in agreement with Pastor Willie and her comments. We are facing nationwide
17 voter suppression and dilution, well, suppression and the diluting of the African-American vote
18 all throughout this country in different states. It appears that in the plan that was presented we
19 would experience something similar.

20 I do wanna thank you, chairwoman, for the assurance that this draft will be discussed in
21 the community and that there won't be action taken on it today. We do appreciate that but as it
22 relates to substance, it appears that what was presented today intentionally discriminates and
23 desperately impacts the voting rights of Village West Black residents by diluting their political

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1 impact. Although it might be small, we do have a political impact. It also seems to sever the
2 cultural, social and historical ties to Coconut Grove and District 2 governance.

3 I will say that at the beginning of the presentation as you go back and our consultants
4 rework the draft, you did say that one of your objectives was to maintain communities of interest
5 in neighborhoods where feasible. It doesn't appear that this draft does that for Coconut Grove.
6 You did consider naturally occurring boundaries for other districts. Day Avenue is not
7 necessarily a naturally occurring boundary in West Grove, so please consider US 1 as one of
8 those naturally occurring boundaries as you rework the plan.

9 Also, your plan takes into consideration a number of things but does not take into
10 consideration the Village Council, which is an elected body from the West Grove, nor does it
11 take into consideration the NCD-2, which is a part of Miami 21, which I think needs to remain
12 intact. The CRA has been newly formed and if you split the Grove and Day Avenue, you would
13 have two different commission districts that will have some type of jurisdiction over the CRA.
14 I'd ask that you would carefully reconsider.

15 Commissioner King: Thank you.

16 Reverend Nathaniel Robinson III: Thank you.

17 Cynthia Shelley: Hi, everyone. My name is Cynthia Shelley. I have lived in Coconut
18 Grove since 1980. I came here from Winter Park, Florida and made this my home, the Grove,
19 made the Grove my home. I founded the Coconut Grove Park Homeowners Association. I'm
20 here representing the Coconut Grove Park Homeowners Association. I am a former vice
21 president of the Civic Club. I'm a former vice president of Coconut Grove Park Elementary. I'm
22 one of the founders of the Village Council.

23 I'm here to represent the people who care about continuing to keep the Grove. We have

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1 the North Grove. We have Center Grove. We have South Grove. We have West Grove. Each of
2 those communities are one. They each have the word "grove" in it.

3 I believe in representing what the people want. I know you do also, that you care. Ken, I
4 know you care what the people want and need for their area, for their people. I am the child, not
5 a child anymore, but born the daughter of a colonel of the United States Air Force. I have learned
6 to look at those who live around me and with me and represent them for what their needs are.

7 Please keep the Grove as the Grove and please continue to represent the needs of each of
8 those people who live in the Grove and need to be represented. Thank you.

9 Commissioner King: Thank you.

10 Nancy Tedford: Hello, my name is Nancy Tedford and I have already been displaced
11 from Coconut Grove due to development and yet I still stand with the residents of Coconut Grove
12 in keeping the Grove unified and not parceling it off. Thank you.

13 James Torres: Good afternoon, James Torres, president of the DNA. I don't live in the
14 Grove but we experienced growth in District 2. We're fully aware of what's happening. One of
15 the things that the attorney made reference to a few months ago that I kinda wanna bring up that
16 everyone is fully onboard with this is he made a comment that something has to happen before
17 March, if I'm not mistaken. It's now February 7th and if we're gonna put this out in town hall
18 meetings, we may be a little bit underneath the gun. With that being said, I hope that the
19 commission looks at the way it needs to be done.

20 The other caveat to this is that the core of Downtown Brickell, Omni, Edgewater,
21 Wynwood, and Midtown, east of I-95 within District 2 should be kept as its integrity because if
22 we start shifting away, as we all know, downtown is what's driving these changes, and we're
23 gonna be having that same conversation 10 years down the line.

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1 We kindly ask whatever plan is selected that we have several options for the community
2 of the Grove and everyone else that's affected by it because it's important to build the community
3 the way it should. Thank you.

4 Commissioner King: Thank you.

5 Mel Meinhardt: Madam Chairman, commissioners, my name is Mel Meinhardt, 3075
6 Virginia Street. I represent the village of Center Grove. The village of Center Grove is the
7 community organization that runs right through the middle of your districting plan and it includes
8 the changes that are made here. I also have the privilege of being probably the first Anglo to live
9 in the West Grove many years ago in the last millennia.

10 I'm here to say that we think of the Coconut Grove as an artsy kind of community but
11 that is true but it's a very independent and fiercely loyal place that demands the highest levels of
12 public service out of its representatives. I would point out that two of the last city commissioners
13 have been pushed out of office or helped out of office by coordinated efforts of the village of
14 Center Grove and by the Grove itself.

15 I'd also point out that that creates tremendous power to protect each other and look after
16 each other's interests. Since the village of Center Grove looks out for the West Grove, for the
17 South Grove and the actions here in the North Grove as well. We have many examples of
18 coordinated efforts where we've worked together to help each other there. We hope that you can
19 continue to have that kind of cohesion so that we can see communities working together here in
20 the North, South and Center and West Groves. Thank you.

21 Commissioner King: Thank you.

22 Commissioner Carollo: Chair, can I ask him a question for a point of information for all
23 of us, since he says he represents Center Grove? Sir, where do you consider that the boundaries

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1 of Center Grove are?

2 Mel Meinhardt: I'm sorry. I can't hear the commissioner.

3 Commissioner King: Where do you consider the boundaries for Center Grove?

4 Mel Meinhardt: The Center Grove in our definition is between 27th Avenue on the east
5 and 32nd Avenue on the west.

6 Commissioner Carollo: You don't consider from 27th through 22nd Center Grove?

7 Mel Meinhardt: By the definition of our organization, that's where we're talking about,
8 27th to 32nd from US-1 to the water.

9 Commissioner King: Thank you.

10 Commissioner Carollo: I've heard different [inadubile 02:17:05].

11 Mel Meinhardt: No ambiguity. I'm just trying to clear it up.

12 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, that's why I was asking.

13 Mel Meinhardt: Thank you.

14 Commissioner King: Sir, please?

15 Lucian Firster: Good afternoon, commissioners. My name is Lucian Firster. I live on
16 Crawford Avenue in South Grove. I've lived there since 1983.

17 First of all, I don't wanna be redundant. I clearly support a unitary Coconut Grove in one
18 district. It's been well said by others. I can't repeat that. I do wanna say that Coconut Grove is a
19 community. It was a settlement, the first one, other than Native Americans, in this area. It was a
20 village. It was almost a city. It is a community. We have our needs. We have our problems but
21 it is a unitary community and it should stay that way.

22 I'd also like to talk about the process and then I'm done. This redistricting is needed. It's
23 important. It's difficult and it can be misunderstood by the public. I call upon the city of Miami,

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1 its commissioner and all those that work with you, to make this clear, fair and open. I would
2 imagine that the majority of us that came here today thought that the decision would be presented
3 by Mr. De Grandy and voted on today. That was the information that seemed to be out there. It
4 was wrong.

5 We need correct information immediately shared to make good decisions but most of all
6 we need a fair and friendly, non-combative council that will listen to us and work with us. Thank
7 you.

8 Commissioner King: Thank you.

9 Andy Parrish: Good afternoon, commissioners. My name is Andy Parrish, offices at 3778
10 Grand Avenue.

11 Some of you, including Commissioner Carollo, used to be my neighbor in the North
12 Grove a long time ago. I've been building affordable homes in the West Grove since 1994 with
13 my partners. We developed the Grand Island Building and the federal, where the Arts for
14 Learning School is, where the Royal Poinciana is. I've been in the West Grove a long time, but
15 that's not what I wanna talk about.

16 Actually, Mr. Firster, a good friend also, who just stole a lot of what I was gonna say
17 which is the process. I am concerned about the process, Chairwoman King, in that and I have
18 sympathy for Mr. De Grandy. You have to have a starting point somewhere but starting points
19 matter so when you have the town hall meetings after this meeting, the starting point will be
20 what Mr. De Grandy presented and that builds a momentum that I hope you all will be skeptical
21 of because there's lots of different alternatives that you all could consider.

22 I don't want the momentum to be started from the starting point that Mr. De Grandy has
23 pointed out and then everything else is tweaked on top of that because some of that, you, as our

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1 commissioner, may want to rethink entirely, maybe the number of districts that we have. Maybe
2 but certainly you've heard today that neighborhoods are important, community, and
3 Commissioner Reyes has always been a champion of neighborhoods.

4 I would like to see much more emphasis put on the existing neighborhoods as you do this
5 redistricting. Whether it means more commissioners, I don't know. That's for you to decide but
6 don't let the momentum take away the voice of the people. Thank you very much.

7 Commissioner King: Thank you.

8 David Winker: David Winker, 2222 SW 17th Street.

9 Coconut Grove is one of the oldest settlements in Miami-Dade and it was incorporated
10 as a city in 1919. It was incorporated into the city of Miami in 1925. I think it's important. I
11 often say democracy is a bird and here we're seeing democracy and I would point out that we're
12 not hearing residents clamoring to be removed from District 2. Everyone here is in support of
13 staying and I think that says something.

14 You guys have a hard decision to make. I wish the map had come out earlier. I really
15 appreciate Chairman King saying we're gonna have meetings, we're gonna have outreach. I
16 think it's really important to talk with the communities and make sure that the communities of
17 interest.

18 I think Commissioner Carollo made a very good point, right? He asked a question: Has
19 there ever been Black, African American elected in District 2? Of course the answer is there has
20 not and I would say that there is an affinity. Just taking a rough count, it's 50/50. There is an
21 affinity. This is a community and so I think that the partial answer to Commissioner Carollo's
22 very fair question is this is one community, a community of interest and it should be preserved.
23 Thank you so much, madam.

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1 Councilmember King: Thank you.

2 Bob Dorez: Well, good afternoon. My name is Bob Dorez. I moved here to Coconut
3 Grove in 1970 from Ann Arbor, Detroit. That just shows you how smart I am back in 1970 and
4 I owned a home in the Grove for about 10 years. I now reside at 200 SE 15th Road in District
5 10, right on the water there. I've just been offered a huge amount of money for my condo. They
6 wanna tear it down and build something taller.

7 Anyway, they say start with a joke when you talk. This is all gonna be nuked in about 40
8 years. District 10's gonna be covered in water so why are we even talking about this now? That's
9 my joke. Nobody's laughing.

10 I think it's also a joke that when we saw the map and it was a colored map as to the size
11 of the district, they had District 2 represented to be almost eight times as large, the area, than it
12 actually is by bringing the line all the way out into the water. That just shows you how honest I
13 think the people that are running this are.

14 What a facade that is. How stupid do they think I am? I know they think some people out
15 there don't have the intelligence to understand that or be able to read a map because most people
16 can't read a map but I can and I hope you can, too.

17 I'd like to also see how many letters or emails that you've all received from residents,
18 residents of District 10. Any complaints about what's going on? Have you gotten a complaint
19 from District 4 from any of the residents, District 5, District 7? Has anybody complained?

20 I met an old man, a lawyer, from Holland & Knight. He never mentioned who's paying
21 him. Did I miss something? Did we miss who's paying him? Who's spending the millions and
22 millions of dollars?

23 Commissioner King: Thank you.

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1 Bob Dorez: The millions of dollars to do this, you know?

2 Commissioner King: Thank you. Is there anyone else? Sir, your time is up. Thank you.

3 Alejandra Rondon: Hi, hello, good afternoon. My name is Alexandra Rondon. I'm a
4 councilmember on the Coconut Grove Village Council.

5 I'd like to start by thanking Madam Chair and the commissioners for holding public
6 comments today. It's really appreciated. I think as you can see a lot of my Coconut Grove
7 neighbors are eager to share their views in particular around keeping a neighborhood together. I
8 also want to thank Mr. De Grandy for his presentation.

9 I personally appreciate the trust given to the commissioner and the latitude that you all
10 will have around this map. I think there was a lot of fear that today was it, so thank you all for
11 creating a public process and for sort of trusting the process by which you all can make decisions
12 to keep all of our neighborhoods together, so thank you.

13 Lastly, I look forward hopefully very soon to your discussion and knowing a bit more
14 about what the public process will be like and, in particular, I think letting that be an opportunity
15 to hear input such as why couldn't US 1 be? Just looking forward to that process. Thank you
16 very much.

17 Commissioner King: Thank you.

18 Brian Gibson: Hi, my name is Brian Gibson. I live at 4145 El Prado Boulevard in Coconut
19 Grove and I was not a native but I've been there since I was six months old.

20 I just learned about this last night at 10:00 o'clock so I'm not super-prepared but what I
21 did was look online and find the report that may be the same person here. It was Miguel De
22 Grandy's report that you commissioned to advise on best practices as well as what might be
23 considered unlawful when redistricting.

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1 In 2000, you identified the following criteria for redistricting to quote “that the draft plan
2 whenever possible preserve the integrity of historical and traditional neighborhoods.” Then in
3 2010, the last time there was redistricting, your own report said the traditional redistricting
4 criteria considered by a body as it reapportions itself includes maintaining communities of
5 interest together, such as traditional neighborhoods. It also went on to say that the city shall not
6 engage in racial gerrymandering.

7 Coconut Grove, as a historic neighborhood, is probably the oldest neighborhood in
8 Miami and the Black community that built Coconut Grove doesn’t deserve to be removed from
9 the neighborhood that they built. I just think that when your own past practices and the last two
10 redistricting recognized that you don’t wanna divide up neighborhoods, this would not be the
11 right thing to do.

12 Commissioner King: Thank you.

13 Chris Baraloto: Good afternoon, Chris Baraloto, 3752 Kumquat Avenue.

14 I also serve on the Coconut Grove Village Council and I don’t want to reiterate much of
15 what’s already been said. I would like to call for your process to share with us more information
16 than has been shared today. I wanna call attention. This was a discussion item last week. Then
17 this special meeting was held. None of this information was shared with our constituents. We
18 have several hundred people, some of whom are represented here, who want to have their voices
19 heard and want to understand this process.

20 I would call for you, if you could, please share with us a schedule. If there is a March
21 deadline, share this with us. If you’re going to have meetings, share these with us. You obviously
22 have data. Share this with us. Allow us to come up with alternative scenarios for you to review.
23 Trust us as we trust you. Thank you.

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1 Commissioner King: Thank you. This concludes the public-comment portion of our
2 meeting and, again, let me state that Mr. De Grandy's plan is just a draft. This is an opportunity
3 for all of the commissioners to see his draft and beat him up a bit. There's not one commissioner
4 here that I think is in agreement with his plan but this is the only opportunity for us to speak
5 collectively and then he will take our recommendations that we feel is appropriate for our district
6 and then we may take it to the community for further input. That is what we're doing here.

7 There is not one person on this commission that wants to circumvent the public's interest
8 and input in this process. For the record, Mr. City Attorney, can you advise, for the record, why
9 we are faced with redistricting?

10 Mr. Wysong: Redistricting traditionally occurs when the census comes out, the decennial
11 census. The census came out and one of the reasons why, to a certain degree, we're behind the
12 eight ball on this is that the census took a lot longer to come out. It was supposed to come out in
13 March. Then the federal government indicated that they won't have the numbers out 'til
14 September and that took six months of this process away. Now we're sort of catching up to that.
15 Traditionally, throughout the country, you look at redistricting or analyzing your districts to
16 make sure that you meet the 10% threshold every 10 years and that's how we got here.

17 Commissioner King: We are legally obligated to redistrict the city of Miami. Do we have
18 an option not to do it?

19 Mr. Wysong: We have an option not to do it and as your expert counsel will say that the
20 peril of not doing it is somebody can make you do it. They can file a lawsuit saying that the
21 numbers aren't appropriate. We are proactively doing this to ensure that we comply with the
22 Voting Acts Right.

23 Commissioner King: I'd also like to address the deadline issue. While there is a deadline

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1 for elections, it is not a hard and fast deadline. It's a deadline that we would try to meet to prevent
2 having a financial ramification for not getting it done within a certain time. Again, no one here,
3 none of my colleagues, will be held to that deadline to save \$2.00. Everyone in our communities
4 will have an opportunity to have input in what is going to happen in our communities. Having
5 said that, I'm going to allow Mr. De Grandy two minutes.

6 Mr. De Grandy: Two minutes, ma'am, to clarify some things, if I may. First of all, I've
7 had a couple members from the public ask me for the existing plan, the current districts. They
8 are on the website for the city of Miami. You could look at those there.

9 I wanna also clarify the issue of lack of information. This is actually the third public
10 hearing we've had on redistricting as you know. The first public hearing I went through an entire
11 dissertation of all the legal issues, the reason why redistricting is mandatory. You're at 42 point
12 something percent overall deviation. If you do not redistrict, you will be sued and the plaintiffs
13 will prevail. That's just basic law.

14 The first hearing we had was to discuss all the legal issues. The second public hearing
15 we had was to obtain input from you as to what criteria you wanted to use. This is the third public
16 hearing on that matter. I cannot speak to that. I assume that the city publicly noticed every one
17 of those meetings so I cannot speak to why these folks were not notified but there were publicly-
18 noticed meetings.

19 A couple of things. There was a concern about the coastal district and why is it a coastal
20 district? That coastal district has existed now for two redistricting cycles. There was a direction
21 by you in the second public hearing to maintain the core and configuration of the existing districts
22 and that's why that district still looks like a coastal district.

23 There was talk particularly in the triangle that goes into District 4, south of US 1, that

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1 you shouldn't give the West Grove to a Hispanic district. Well, two things that you should know.

2 Prior to my doing the adjustments that I did in redistricting, District 2 was a majority Hispanic
3 district. It's now barely not.

4 The other thing that you should know is that triangle has 5,071 people, 2,460 are
5 Hispanic. 497 are African African.

6 Commissioner Carollo: Can you go over that again slowly?

7 Mr. De Grandy: That area has 5,071 residents, 2,460 are Hispanic.

8 Commissioner Carollo: Two-thousand?

9 Mr. De Grandy: Four-hundred and sixty. Four-hundred and ninety-seven are African
10 American and 1,915 consider themselves or identify themselves in the census as single-race
11 white. I wanted to put into content what we're moving into, a majority Hispanic district.

12 Let me go through a couple of other things. All this data will be available to the public
13 after this hearing. We will provide a USB of that entire presentation to your clerk and anyone
14 can make a public-records request.

15 Commissioner Russell: Chair, we really need to do these comments on the record.

16 Commissioner King: Go ahead. I think you've exceeded your two minutes and I believe
17 my colleagues are anxious to get going on the discussion.

18 Mr. De Grandy: Yes, let me just finish clarifying some issues. The other issue was US 1
19 being a hard boundary. Mr. Cody and I drew that plan 10 years ago and it was a hard boundary.
20 It was a hard boundary because we didn't need to rebalance the population in the way we did.

21 I wanna bring one last point, Madam Chair, which is what we did in the boundary
22 between 2 and 5. We moved approximately 9,500 individuals from District 2 into District 5 of
23 the 28,000 that we had to move to balance the district. There were only roughly 1,000 African

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1 Americans. The only reason we were able to rebalance the ethnic and racial population is by
2 taking out that southern part of District 5 and moving it into District 1, which was
3 overwhelmingly Hispanic and had roughly the same African American population.

4 I say this to tell you I cannot take any more population out of D2 into D5, so the only
5 choices that are left is either taking downtown into District 3 or breaking south of US 1 to take
6 parts of the Grove. Those are your policy choices. I am agnostic as to whatever you want to do.
7 Those are your policy choices, but those are the facts and those are the figures.

8 Commissioner King: Thank you.

9 Commissioner Russell: Madam Chair?

10 Commissioner King: Yes?

11 Commissioner Russell: Commissioner Russell.

12 Commissioner King: Oh, hold on one second.

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Madam Chair?

14 Commissioner King: Hold on one second. There is going to be a —

15 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: An order.

16 Commissioner King: — order, so my order and I think I'm gonna keep this order moving
17 forward for my commission meetings. I'm going to look to my vice chair first and then I will go
18 in order of districts.

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you. I agree but Madam Chair, can I request it
20 of you?

21 Commissioner King: Questions?

22 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I only have two questions today. One of Mr. De
23 Grandy and then one of you and I'm done for today.

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Commissioner King: We're gonna take your questions —

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I'll be very quick.

Commissioner King: — in order. We're gonna go to the vice chair first.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Unless the vice chair deferred to me for two minutes.

Commissioner Carollo: Well, I have one of him but a statement to make and then before I proceed I will gladly give the floor to you for those questions.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Carollo: Mine, I think, will be quick.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you.

Commissioner Carollo: Mr. De Grandy, when you were before this body the last time and we went over with you the process we were gonna follow because while by law we're not bound to go along with the timing as the chair said of the county, it is gonna cost us a pretty penny if we don't.

What I remember at that last meeting was that this body had agreed that you would come before us. The last meeting was canceled so it was placed with this one and then we will give you final instructions if we decided that we were not going to vote for this exactly the way you had it. If we did, well, that was fine, but if we didn't, we gave you some final instructions on how we wanted to end up with the districts that you would then do that. You would come to us and we would have that final hearing on that time so that we could meet the requirement of the county and save a buncha dollars.

Am I correct in that or did I forget something?

Mr. De Grandy: That is my understanding of the direction that you gave us, commissioner.

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1 Commissioner Carollo: I'll cede the floor to you then, for your questions, and then I'll
2 take it back.

3 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you Commissioner Carollo.

4 Commissioner King: Go ahead.

5 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Mr. De Grandy, is there any legal requirement or legal principle that we have in coastal
7 district?

8 Mr. De Grandy: No, there is no requirement but once you told me to maintain the core
9 and configuration of the existing districts, I kept that coastal district as a coastal district, but there
10 is no legal requirement. I mean I could start from scratch and create a new plan if you want,
11 which is we discussed and this commission said no, maintain the core of existing districts to
12 minimize voter confusion and disruption.

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: This commission could change that vote, right, and
14 reverse that and say we don't need a coastal district? There's no legal protection having a white,
15 for lack of a better term, district, correct?

16 Mr. De Grandy: No, there is no legal protection to having a coastal district.

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: For you, Madam Chair, what is your thinking in terms
18 of how you wanna undergo this process? Commissioner Carollo brought up a very good point.
19 He sort of asked a question I was gonna ask but I missed a couple of things that I wanna know.
20 There's a deadline. What's that exact deadline?

21 Commissioner King: The deadline is February.

22 Mr. De Grandy: What we have been told by the supervisor of elections is to have a plan
23 by the end of February and, if not, again, the consequence, as she explained to me, it's

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1 approximately \$115,000 in cost of production of new voter cards and mailing cards. If you don't
2 do it at the same time that the county's doing and anywhere from 20 to \$40,000 in staff time. It
3 could be 135 to 150,000.

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Outside that artificially imposed deadline by the
5 elections department, what is the real deadline? Let's say hypothetically we wanna pay the 135k.
6 What would be the real deadline?

7 Mr. De Grandy: You don't have to redistrict until sometime before qualifying.

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Which will be?

9 Mr. De Grandy: You could leave a reasonable time before qualifying, but you're talking
10 about your next elections are 2023. Short of that, you have until some reasonable period prior to
11 qualifying.

12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Madam Chair?

13 Mr. De Grandy: From a legal perspective.

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you. What's your thinking in terms of the
15 processing, public hearings?

16 Commissioner King: Well, my thinking is and I thought we discussed that in our
17 commission meeting that we would take this plan to our communities. I want to ensure that
18 democracy prevails, that we give our communities an opportunity to weigh in to give us input
19 on how we would like our maps to be redrawn.

20 For me, I am not held steadfast. I don't want to rush this process. I understand that
21 because of the pandemic and the census being late, we are here and if we could make that
22 deadline, great, but I don't wanna disenfranchise anyone and not be able to hear from our
23 communities. Appropriately, give them enough to say what they believe because that's why

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1 we're here, to listen to what our communities have to say, get their input.

2 I would like to be fiscally sound if at all possible but today is February 7th and the
3 deadline is the end of February. We have to create our timetables, our schedules, and, frankly,
4 we all have to get this information out to our communities. For me, I will not object if we do not
5 meet the Miami-Dade County deadline. It will be an objection.

6 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you.

7 Commissioner King: That's not gonna drive my decision.

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 Commissioner Carollo: I guess I would need to hear from the chair on this. If we do that,
10 we need to establish at least our own deadline so that this doesn't go on forever and ever.

11 Commissioner King: Absolutely.

12 Commissioner Carollo: Any time a small group of people want to stop something in the
13 city of Miami, they'll study it to death. They'll have community meetings to death and this is
14 what happens. I would go along with that even though I think that we could accomplish this.
15 Maybe you've gotten a little extension from the county in the way that we have stated in the last
16 meeting that we discussed this. We certainly have to give a time and date by when we'll finish
17 this.

18 Is it the end of March? That gives us another month where we could have in all our
19 communities town hall meetings. In fact, today I've counted 43 people that I counted here that
20 came. I don't know how many of those spoke. Out of those 43, there was one from District 4.
21 There was one from Downtown Miami District 2 and there was from Brickell District 2. The rest
22 were mainly from the same area of Coconut Grove.

23 Commissioner King: What are you gonna do about it?

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1 Commissioner Carollo: I didn't see any of my old neighbors from the North Grove here
2 today. Thought I didn't see anyone from your district.

3 Commissioner King: One.

4 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, one.

5 Commissioner King: One.

6 Commissioner Carollo: Commissioner, zero. There was zero from mine and there was
7 one lobbyist —

8 David Winker: Yes, sir.

9 Commissioner Carollo: — from yours and Mr. Winker has had people in different cases
10 he's represented. I wish at some time we could revisit those two duplexes because I still think
11 that we should look at that further, Mr. Winker. That left a bad taste in my stomach and is part
12 of what's been going on in many parts of our city and our district, but the bulk of our districts
13 haven't had the beef.

14 Commissioner King: I agree. I agree that we should set a deadline. I don't anticipate this
15 going on and on and on. We do need to address it. We need to resolve this as quickly as we can
16 but again with input. I am not purporting that, proposing that we take this up to our qualifying
17 deadline. No, I would like to resolve this as quickly as we can but I do want to be able for the
18 community to say, "We had adequate input."

19 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, no more than 45, 60 days.

20 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Do you wanna set a deadline today?

21 Commissioner Carollo: I think we should.

22 Commissioner King: We could.

23 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

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1 Commissioner King: We could set a deadline today. We could set a deadline today. I'm
2 not opposed to that.

3 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, I think we should do that.

4 Commissioner King: I'm not opposed to that.

5 Commissioner Carollo: Now, if I could go to some of my statements and some of the
6 questions we wanna make.

7 Commissioner King: Then again —

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Before they go there —

9 Commissioner Carollo: Yes?

10 Commissioner King: Hold on, commissioner. Again, for my process, so that it's fair for
11 everybody, I will go to my vice chair and then I will go in order of the districts.

12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Didn't you do that before? You started with your vice
13 chair and then you started over. Are you gonna repeat it? No, no. I mean I just wanna be
14 consistent.

15 Commissioner King: Yes, we're gonna be consistent.

16 Commissioner Carollo: He had two brief questions and they were brief.

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: You're talking about you? You have two brief
18 questions?

19 Commissioner Carollo: No, no, no. I'm saying, Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla, they
20 weren't brief but I've let them come in.

21 Commissioner King: Let's start with Commissioner Carollo.

22 Commissioner Carollo: Okay.

23 Commissioner King: Let's start with you.

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1 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, thank you, chair.

2 Commissioner King: We give him and we'll go in order of what I said.

3 Commissioner Carollo: I'm taking this off so I can be heard better but I'm one of those
4 old guys and I do believe in wearing the mask. I think besides myself, the chair, the last of the
5 Mohicans that from the elected officials, including the mayor, have not gotten COVID, so knock
6 on wood that we stay that way.

7 I think it's important to go into history so that we could understand how this whole
8 process came about, the districts and so on. I heard from some people here, legitimately, they're
9 new, they were asking questions and while to some they might have seemed ignorant questions.
10 I didn't take it that way. I thought they were good questions because they don't know.

11 For instance, why do we have a coastal district? It's a good question and I'm gonna
12 answer that today but before I proceed since some of the people that spoke here, I think one said
13 they were from New York, another from Michigan or up north somewhere and then different
14 people from other areas that have moved here in the years before we made districts.

15 Does anybody here know how districts came about, from the public, anybody? I
16 commissioned the public, but I don't even see one hand. Let me explain to you how districts
17 came about. We had an election in the city of Miami. At that time, the mayor was part of the
18 commission. The mayor was elected citywide and he was one out of five. He had a vote, unlike
19 now, on the commission. All of the commissioners ran citywide.

20 What happened was we had an election and the sole African American commissioner
21 lost and there was no African American representation in the commission. Now, there were some
22 that wanted to challenge it but, at that stage, it was gonna be years before they would have
23 succeeded in court and I will tell you why because they could not prove that it was because of

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1 discrimination, the demographics other than maybe he was a bad candidate, someone that people
2 didn't like.

3 It would've taken more elections to have been able to prove otherwise. At the same time,
4 I would've been seeing the trend with the sole — lack of a better term — Anglo commissioner
5 that we have left and that in the next election or when he decided to retire or die, he might've
6 been the last of the Mohicans.

7 As mayor at that time, and I was the mayor, I put my neck in the line. I put all my political
8 capital to immediately have a referendum to approve district elections and to have an executive
9 mayor like at the time the county had that was not part of the commission.

10 While the districts have good but they also have a lot of bad that come along with them.
11 There's a lot of baggage to districts. Also, I thought that it far outweighed it having districts but
12 having equal representation within the commission and to assure that we would always have a
13 balance of what our population in the district and that there would always be an African
14 American commissioner and an Anglo commissioner because if we would've citywide elections,
15 the trend was very different.

16 I believe that trend will show even today if we have citywide elections and the way that
17 the original districts were made, this why we've had a whole coastal one. It was made that way.
18 It was gerrymandered but it was a legal gerrymander so that you would have an Anglo elected
19 commissioner.

20 Even today, the only way that that could happen is if you have that whole coastal area.
21 There's no way that you can separate the Grove or that you can separate downtown or what's
22 left of the Upper East Side and create just a district for a District 2 so that someone Anglo could
23 be elected. The numbers aren't there.

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1 Now this was how it was done in 2000. In 2010, obviously, the maps changed because
2 of the population shift so there was a big chunk in the upper northeast all the way to the
3 boundaries of the city of Miami that we're putting to District 5. There were other changes that
4 were made in the different districts where you could have that balance. Now we come to today.
5 I'm gonna tell you some of the changes that have happened. Silver Bluff that's a distinct
6 community if you wanna call it as Coconut Grove was. Silver Bluff was divided. Two thirds of
7 it is in District 4. One third approximately is in District 3.

8 Shenandoah, another historical community in the city of Miami was divided. Two thirds
9 is in District 4. Approximately one third is in District 3. Little Havana, Little Havana was
10 divided. You have people now trying to tell you that Little Havana begins at 27th Avenue by 8th
11 street to NW 7th. No. Little Havana begins at 37th Avenue all the way down. This is why you
12 have Versailles at 8th Street and 35th Avenue, La Carreta at 8th Street and 36th Avenue cause
13 that's how far Little Havana went. Little Havana was divided from 27th Avenue to the river to
14 the 8th Street area all the way to 37th. It went into District 4. The rest stayed in District 3. Flagami
15 originally was one area back in 2000 for the District of 1 if I remember.

16 Well Flagami has been divided also. One community. Part in District 1. Part in District
17 4. There are more communities like within District 4. I'm sure that in District 1 you'll find some
18 others. So, I'm bringing this so you could have a historical impact that this body is just not trying
19 to cut up communities for the heck of it. We've had to do this in the past so that we could meet
20 first of all the types of people that this was an impediment to elect. We needed to make sure and
21 we need to make sure that there's gonna be an African American elected end up in this
22 Commission. We need to make sure there's an Anglo American elected and up in this
23 Commission that in the rest of the districts that are majority Hispanic, that they stayed that way

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1 so that the 67% of the population, 68, of the City of Miami, the Hispanic, will have three
2 representatives in the Commission.

3 So, I wanted to go over that so you could understand historically why we have done
4 things and why we have to now make additional changes. District 2 has been the district that has
5 grown by leaps and bounds. The reason is because that's where the developers make all their
6 money by the water. That's where the over build has come and that's why this district has grown
7 so much more in population than the other districts. You cannot go into downtown Miami or any
8 higher than that and start trying to cut up and balance the populations without affecting District
9 5 and some of the other districts in the way that I described of why we went into districts.

10 So, it doesn't leave you much room to do it in. It doesn't have to be exactly as Mr. De
11 Grandy described it, but there are gonna have to be some changes and I think this is gonna be
12 one of the first votes that this Commission needs to take today. The area of Coconut Grove, I've
13 lived in Coconut Grove. I still own property in Coconut Grove. I know Coconut Grove. I wish
14 that the peacocks would be left alone. Having said that, Coconut Grove is really four
15 communities in one. That's what you usually find when you have communities that have a wide
16 range of land and have waterfront, have areas with high incomes, areas that don't have as high
17 income. You have North Coconut Grove. That could go from 27th Avenue up to the
18 Rickenbacker or some might say from 2nd to Rickenbacker. That's why I asked the gentleman
19 from the homeowners group where he considered it. He said 27th Avenue.

20 You have the Center Grove, which he gave a description of what he felt it was. You have
21 the South Grove, which are your big, big blocks and where you have your huge waterfront
22 mansion that don't have as much in common with the Center Grove, with the North Grove and
23 you have what is now called the West Grove. The traditional African American community, the

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1 Bahamian community that has been shrinking more and more throughout the years. You might
2 even wanna look at the old school Coconut Grove that basically is North Coconut Grove that all
3 the high-rises that are either in South Bayshore Drive or by the water that are even more different
4 of the people that have moved there than the other four areas that I mentioned.

5 As I see it, in order to give balance, first of all protect the integrity of what was done in
6 2000 and making sure that we keep African American district, that we keep an Anglo American
7 district, but that we also keep that same balance and having a balance in the Hispanic districts. I
8 don't see any other way that we're gonna have to come in. At least a small portion into Coconut
9 Grove. Now where do we come in? I think there's probably the areas to be up for discussion.
10 But the — I don't necessarily think that where the line has to be drawn is Day Avenue, but that's
11 as we move along in this discussion that we could get into that. One of the decisions that we
12 have to make here today is precisely that is Coconut Grove is gonna be open so that we can bring
13 the balance that we need into all the districts or we're gonna say no. It's gonna be the only
14 neighborhood in the city that would not have different parts of it as I described many of the main
15 others in other districts. Then the outcome of that would be that guys like— that look like us,
16 with last names like us, in the near future might not be elected necessarily from the districts that
17 we represent. What I tried to stand up for back in 2000 to make sure that we had a balance of our
18 population is gonna go the opposite way by those decisions. So, for now that's what I have to
19 say, but if Mr. De Grandy, if I could get you back here for a minute.

20 Mr. De Grandy: Yes, sir.

21 Commissioner Carollo: This doesn't require any major further analysis outside of what
22 this Commission would like to see. The only analysis that it would require from that if we give
23 you, well at least the majority of us in a vote, give you marching orders is then for you to write

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1 down the numbers that would make sense and see how deep we have to go into an area or not.
2 We work out those numbers. Outside of that, that might take you a couple of weeks or so to do.
3 Is coming back to us with your final proposal for us to accept it or not, if we accept it, then we
4 could go and bring in to the community. We could have a town hall meeting in each one of our
5 districts. Then bring it to a final vote.

6 So, I don't see this having to need months and months and months because precisely this
7 is the feeling that I'm getting. That I wanna see something different, figure the only way to
8 achieve their goal is to keep this going and going and going and going. So, if you have marching
9 orders from the Commission today, how long will it take you to come back and then give us the
10 final numbers based upon what we've asked you to do. I think we're gonna need to be very
11 specific in areas or I surely will be.

12 Mr. De Grandy: Okay, Commissioner, if — it depends on the number of changes, but
13 reasonably, if you give me specific directions and say general this area do this, generally this
14 area, do that, we can bring something back to you in two weeks. It will not be the final plan,
15 because again, the reason that I had needed more time for the final plan is because we also
16 provide a report on the final plan that explains the rationale basis for each of the changes. To
17 answer your question, is depending on the number of changes, yes, I could come back in a couple
18 of weeks with a revised plan.

19 Commissioner Carollo: In a couple of weeks, okay. Chairman, if we could get there to
20 where we have a consensus among us today and we tell Mr. De Grandy, these areas that we
21 specify clear areas, is what we want. We vote on it so that the majority of us are instructing him.
22 He comes back in approximately two weeks or so. We have to make sure that we have a date set
23 and I would recommend that we do these meetings, stand-alone and I see you could see why.

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1 How many more weeks do you think we need for each of us, and we could do it in the same
2 week, each of us, cause there's different districts to have the community meetings in each of our
3 districts and then be able to come back to vote upon it?

4 Commissioner King: That would be the will of the body. I think once we know what the
5 two-week deadline is, that would give us nearly a month because we can ask for two weeks to
6 take it to our districts, but we would have a month lead-time to advise the districts and schedule
7 it. So, I don't think that we need more than two weeks subsequent to receiving the plan to take
8 it to our district.

9 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, so and I agree with you. So, I think that if we vote upon
10 the what would bring this to a final vote on or before the end of March, then we're in a good
11 position then?

12 Commissioner King: Yes, I agree.

13 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, all right.

14 Commissioner King: So now, I'm sorry I didn't mean to cut you off.

15 Commissioner Carollo: No, no, no I'm —

16 Commissioner King: Okay, so what I did which none of my colleagues knew I was doing.
17 I set my timer for 15 minutes and you closed almost at 15 minutes and I'd like to give my
18 colleagues 15 minutes to bring your concerns or your questions, your comments —

19 Commissioner Carollo: That's fair, very fair.

20 Commissioner King: — so that — and we do have another meeting subsequent to this,
21 but it will be short.

22 Commissioner Carollo: What meeting is that?

23 Commissioner King: The Overtown CRA meeting. I had to cancel it at the last

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Commission meeting and I'd like to take that up.

Commissioner Carollo: Yes. Yeah, I will be there.

Commissioner King: Going along with my order, Commissioner.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I like your discipline. I'm gonna give you — I need a little favor today from you. I've asked my questions. I have two questions. I have some follow-ups for those. I'm done for today.

Commissioner King: Okay.

Commissioner Carollo: So, you're gonna give me your fourteen and-a-half minutes.

Commissioner Russell: It's coming this way. I got 30 minutes.

Commissioner Reyes: But if somebody's gonna be given time, it's me here. I've been left out.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: But I would like though to say a few things quickly. Are we going to take a vote today on a deadline —

Commissioner King: Yes, we are.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: — for the final plan?

Commissioner King: Yes, we are.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: That's your intention?

Commissioner King: Yes, it is.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay. Well two different dates, I know.

Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, they're gonna have to be, I think, three votes. One which is a key vote is do we keep Coconut Grove intact or is it open? To try to balance districts? That should be one.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I agree.

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1 Commissioner Carollo: The second vote should be on the timing.

2 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: A special Commission meeting.

3 Commissioner Carollo: A special Commission meeting that ends by no later than the —

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: March 30th.

5 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah and the other one would be, we have to agree on the final
6 marching orders that we will give Mr. De Grandy unless we're in full agreement with his plan.

7 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: So, madam chair. I need to follow up on that. There's
8 going to be a Commission meeting probably in two weeks when Mr. De Grandy comes back to
9 us with a somewhat revised plan after we take our votes today. There will be meetings. Mr. De
10 Grandy will hand each one of us individually in that two-week period. Correct? So we can kind
11 of express our concerns again to you so you take all that into account if we move forward. I
12 would request that at least with me.

13 Commissioner Carollo: I would, if I may, suggest that Mr. De Grandy is gonna give us a
14 date that is acceptable to all of us that he's coming back. He'll give us that date today. Then
15 beginning today, tomorrow, we let our district, each district know —

16 Commissioner King: Yes.

17 Commissioner Carollo: — when we're gonna have that meeting to present his plan.

18 Commissioner King: Right.

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Correct.

20 Commissioner Carollo: This way they have all this time —

21 Commissioner King: To prepare.

22 Commissioner Carollo: — to prepare.

23 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: After that meeting, we'll then have public hearings in

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1 each one of our districts.

2 Commissioner King: Yes.

3 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Then we'll set a deadline for March 30th to say
5 hypothetically —

6 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

7 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: — will we vote the plan out?

8 Commissioner Carollo: Exactly.

9 Commissioner King: Yeah.

10 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: People have testified today, they'll have an
11 opportunity obviously to testify in the next Commission meeting.

12 Commissioner Carollo: Sure.

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: When they see the final plan.

14 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, absolutely.

15 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay. That's fair. That's it, I'm done.

16 Mr. De Grandy: Madam Chair if I may, the only thing that I would say is if you want a
17 pretty much finalized product in two weeks, please give me as succinct direction as you can
18 today of what additional movements you want so that I can do what you're asking me to do.

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: What I wanna try to avoid, I don't know how my
20 colleagues feel. What I wanna try to avoid is drawing a map from the dais. We had that problem
21 in Tallahassee often. You remember. You were there. Before I got there, I had to do the same
22 thing. In Committee meetings, people — everybody has their own ideas of how a district should
23 look like. Cause they know their districts or how the City map should look like or that case of a

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1 state map. Everybody tries to say well, how about if you move this street from here to here and
2 that avenue — that's gonna be something that's gonna drag out all day.

3 Mr. De Grandy: No, no. I'm looking at areas. If you give me concepts to say —

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Well I —

5 Mr. De Grandy: Like for example the Grove, do I cross? Do I not?

6 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Well we'll take up all of that. One more thing madam
7 chair. I think the Commissioner Carollo was very eloquent in highlighting that there are
8 neighborhoods in Miami, Flagami, Shenandoah, Silver Bluff, Allapattah, Little Havana that are
9 probably more cohesive than Coconut Grove cause we did define how Coconut Grove had four
10 different parts. I think it's five, but let's say it's four. Very distinct, very different parts. I was
11 born and raised in Miami. I spent a lot of time in Coconut Grove. I know Coconut Grove very
12 well. Commissioner Carollo has lived in Coconut Grove. So we understand Coconut Grove. You
13 don't have to be — you can be Hispanic and still get a sense of what Coconut Grove looks like,
14 right? But there are communities that are really, really cohesive communities in our city that
15 have been divided for decades by redistricting I mentioned, he mentioned them. There's a lot
16 more, even Allapattah has been divided. Wentworth was divided in the third map. It goes on and
17 on and on. Coconut Grove doesn't have a monopoly on being a community. There are other
18 communities that have been divided. That's the way it is. That's my only thought for today.

19 Commissioner King: Thank you. Commissioner Russell.

20 Commissioner Russell: Thank you Chairwoman. I have three questions for Mr. De
21 Grandy please. The first one has to do with the deadline. Could you explain for the public please,
22 if we do not have an election this year in the City of Miami and the main purpose of our
23 redistricting is for our future elections, representation, what is the purpose — what is the reason

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1 for the financial penalty for not getting our ducks in a row for this upcoming cycle, County's
2 experience? Why are we penalized for that?

3 Mr. De Grandy: What the supervisor has explained to me is that once they finish their
4 redistricting process, they have an election in 2022. Your election is not until 2023. So, they are
5 going to redo all the precincts for now kind of configure into the new districts and they're going
6 to reissue all new voters' cards to all voters in the entire county. So, what she's saying is she has
7 to commence doing that by March. If we extend past March, there certainly isn't a legal
8 impediment. There's a financial impediment where the supervisor has informed me that if they
9 then have to come back and redo all the precincts in the city of Miami and reissue all the voter
10 cards, that's where the expense comes from. But there is no legal impediment to your exceeding
11 the February deadline.

12 Commissioner Russell: Thank you. Mr. De Grandy, the second question I have is could
13 you tell us the — in the current form of where the District lines are drawn, what is the
14 demographic breakup in District 2 by race?

15 Mr. De Grandy: Demographic breakup of the proposed District 2?

16 Commissioner Russell: The current District 2. You gave us the proposed District 2 and I
17 have it here, 37% white, 8% black, 48% Hispanic. Do you know what we are currently where
18 the lines are now?

19 Mr. De Grandy: Currently it is District 2, 52% Hispanic population, 8% non-Hispanic
20 Black and 30% non-Hispanic white, 34% non-Hispanic white.

21 Commissioner Russell: Got it. So the Black population stays pretty close to the same in
22 your draft versus —

23 Mr. De Grandy: What goes down actually is the Hispanic population.

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1 Commissioner Russell: I see that. My final question for you is where do you see the
2 population growth having happened most? Is there a population growth in the Grove that needs
3 to be shed? I know we look at it as a district as a whole, but if the population growth is happening
4 downtown, happening in Brickell, happening in Edgewater. How are we seeing growth in the
5 Grove?

6 Mr. De Grandy: How are we seeing growth?

7 Commissioner Russell: In the population census from 10 years ago, what we're looking
8 at now. We haven't changed the density of the Grove. There's been a couple of new towers on
9 Bayshore. But I would venture a guess that we have not seen a population increase in the Grove
10 as there hasn't been a change in the number of homes and units for the most part. Is that a fair
11 assessment?

12 Mr. De Grandy: I would have to look at the data, but I would rely — you would probably
13 know better than I do without looking at the data.

14 Commissioner Russell: It seems that way to me and so my hope is that we can look at
15 shedding the population of the district where we've seen the most growth to create that
16 equilibrium. I do believe that our goal here today is number 1, to find equilibrium within the city
17 for fairness. Number 2, to protect District 5, which is a majority-minority district, but only just.
18 What I'm gonna ask my fellow commissioners is to look a little deeper into my Grove, into some
19 of these finer lines, the cross tabs to see populations of need that may not have the same legal
20 protections as a full minority-majority district, but I'd like to make the case for why they're
21 seeking unity. Coconut Grove has a couple of very unique — I'm sorry District 2 has a couple
22 of very unique characteristics when compared to the other districts.

23 One is there's a lot going on here. This is the financial generator of the city. I don't know

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1 if I'm using the phrase correctly, Commissioner Reyes, but it's the vaca lachera of the city. That
2 means all commissioners in some sense have involvement in the interest of what happens in
3 District 2 because negative repercussions in District 2 could affect the finances of the entire city.
4 It's well known as a donor district that as District 2 growth adds to our real estate values, it helps
5 the whole city. It helps out parks. It helps our services and so everyone has an interest and you
6 see that reflected in board chairmanships. You don't see this in other districts as much where all
7 of us get involved in District 2. I welcome that because my hope is that it brings allies on this
8 Commission that we are working together. I certainly wanna thank my residents for coming out
9 today and not just with emotion and passion for what they care about, but with statistics and
10 process and really seeking a good effort moving forward. I'm hearing that from my
11 commissioners and I thank them.

12 As I've gotten to know my commissioners, fellow commissioners, over the last two
13 years, I know that there is not an intention to break up the Grove. In fact, I would say that they've
14 seen the advocacy and the activism of Grove 2, District 2, Coconut Grove residents and they're
15 not consciously inviting that into their districts or their offices or their email inbox. I have a
16 person who is solely dedicated to constituent services of coconut Grove because the activism,
17 advocacy, and involvement is so high. We have a lot of issues and obviously, there's a monolithic
18 like-minded interest in terms of tree preservation and historic preservation, and not only
19 conservation but climate change issues and storm surge and sea level rise. We have the two
20 neighborhood conservation districts, which is something that was brought up by a few residents,
21 which is very key.

22 So what I'm gonna ask is for my fellow commissioners to work with me on charging Mr.
23 De Grandy with some creativity here. That we stay within the letter of the law for the equilibrium

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1 that we need to meet, but that we do try to keep the unity of neighborhoods together. I don't
2 consider myself the white commissioner. My mother came from Japan in the 1960s and if there's
3 one thing that is the other unique factor of my district, it's not that the common denominator is
4 race. The common denominator of District 2 is diversity and I love being a representative of that.
5 The folks here did not come saying keep the white Grove white and keep the Black Grove Black.
6 They said keep the Grove the Grove and I thought that was beautiful.

7 When long before politics, most of you know the core of my origin story having fought
8 the contaminated park in front of my house, but some might not know is once I learned that that
9 contamination came from the incinerators. Like the one in the West Grove, Old Smokey, I
10 actually went and joined the Old Smokey Steering Committee, a group of activists that were
11 seeking a cancer cluster within the West Grove and I helped knock door-to-door with my fellow
12 neighbors. There was not white. There was no black. This is really about advocating for a
13 community. When I ran for office, I learned the issues of the neighborhood and in my first
14 election; the precincts of the West Grove outnumbered the precincts in the rest of my district.
15 They turned out greater than they had ever in the past and greater than the other precincts in my
16 district. They voted for me.

17 It wasn't to seek a commissioner of color. It was to seek a commissioner of advocacy
18 and so I have returned that responsibility with the last 6 years of trying to hold that community
19 together. Now while District 5 is a protected district, because it has such issues that affect it,
20 from race and poverty and so many things, I've constantly made the case that perhaps West
21 Grove in District 2 could have greater pressures of gentrification and displacement because it is
22 so surrounded by the market-rate wealth. That has led me to use the strength of my position, as
23 a District 2 commissioner to advocate for a community within my district very specifically and

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1 I couldn't have done it without all of you. You have all stood with me from the creation of the
2 West Grove CRA to zoning issues to enforcement issues with code. I really appreciate that.

3 My ask of you is gonna be similar to that here today. The section of the West Grove, the
4 triangle at Bird Road and north, even though it is a majority Hispanic and so absorbing into a
5 Hispanic district would not be a violation of their rights for sure. If it truly does have 497 African
6 American residents there, that is a significant portion of those who are currently in the West
7 Grove. I venture almost 20% of the African American population of the West Grove. I know that
8 they would be equally cared for by any commissioner in this district and represented well.

9 I would like to try to maintain cohesiveness. So, my ask of my fellow commissioners
10 today is to maintain US 1 as that boundary within the Grove. The NCD also, the second NCD,
11 also incorporates bringing together Bay Heights with the North Grove, and the Center Grove,
12 and the South Grove as well. My goal, if we can reach the equilibrium within the legal limits of
13 that disparity, I would like to see US 1 be the barrier up to Simpson Park. Simpson Park, which
14 is at 15th and would cut into Miami Avenue and head north from there as a draft. The concern
15 that has limited and I heard Mr. De Grandy says that I have no options because of the limitations
16 on District 5, anything north I could not absorb in District 5 for diluting the African American
17 population in District 5.

18 He's actually done something that's already potentially solved that problem. District 1
19 now has a dogleg going down the Miami River and touching downtown, which it did not have
20 before. You could continue that dogleg up so that any residents that needed to be shed from
21 District 2 that are the west side of downtown could be absorbed into District 1. The west side or
22 Brickell from Miami Avenue over could be absorbed into District 3. Whatever you can do
23 heading north from there is — it looks like you've already done, but it seems to me that Miami

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1 Avenue could be that natural boundary going, not only through Brickell, but all the way up until
2 it naturally already doglegs at, I believe, NW 22nd Street where it turns into Miami Avenue. You
3 could just simply continue Miami Avenue down south or even further if appropriate. My goal is
4 if that can be done and equilibrium can come as close as possible and even if there's slight
5 disparity in District 2. My request would be that we try to maintain the Grove, which has its
6 elected body of the Village Council, which has its two neighborhood conservation districts,
7 which now has a West Grove CRA, that it does remain intact. That is my ask of my fellow
8 commissioners to give Mr. De Grandy that charge today. Thank you.

9 Commissioner Reyes: You finished?

10 Commissioner King: Thank you.

11 Commissioner Russell: Yes, sir.

12 Commissioner King: And he was three minutes shy of 15 minutes.

13 Commissioner Russell: I got 3 more minutes? Hold on Commissioner.

14 Commissioner Reyes: No, I mean you haven't reached Washington yet. I mean you're
15 gonna build a king filibuster in Washington.

16 Commissioner Russell: We're gonna break that filibuster cause no, I — my goal — I'm
17 not gone yet and I've got — in my last full year but my goal is to leave my district and my city
18 better than I found it in a way that holds legislative futures. Thank you.

19 Commissioner Reyes: It is our — that's the goal —

20 Commissioner Russell: I'm done.

21 Commissioner Reyes: — hold on a second. That's the goal of everybody that is sitting
22 here.

23 Commissioner Russell: I agree.

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Commissioner Reyes: That's the goal of everybody that is sitting here.

Mr. De Grandy: He says confirm. He will be running in the primary. You said his last year.

Commissioner Russell: I did not say. I said I am serving in my last full year in my district and that is the case no matter what happens.

Mr. De Grandy: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Reyes: Okay, that means you will be running in —

Commissioner Russell: Of my term.

Commissioner King: Commissioner Reyes?

Commissioner Reyes: Thank you.

Commissioner King: You're welcome.

Commissioner Reyes: Thank you. First of all, I do understand that every single neighborhood within the City of Miami considers itself special and unique. We are all unique and special. I think the only one that remembers what Commissioner Carollo was relating to all of you, the reason that we had and it was his initiative, I remember that. That we have districts now. It was because Reverend Dunn, who was a commissioner at the time, lost the election. Then everybody was gonna be according to the trend, the ethnic trend of the City of Miami unless districts were formed. Everybody sitting here would have been Hispanic. Okay? Everybody sitting here. That's why they were formed. That's the odd shape that they have now. It was to make sure and let's call a spade a spade. To make sure that an African American was gonna be elected and that an Anglo as they were called before, was gonna be elected. That was brought to the people and the people voted.

Every year, I mean every ten years, in order to protect those two seats, which I think that

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1 it is just to that everybody has representation. There have to be changes. I don't see this like I
2 am going to take over, Coconut Grove. I don't want it. I don't wanna take over any area. As a
3 matter of fact, I feel rejected by Coconut Grover's that they don't want me to be their
4 commissioner. I'm hurt but I could assure if I were to be your commissioner, I would represent
5 that area with as much integrity, as much love and dedication as I am representing my district.
6 You can ask my residents. But I wanna ask Commissioner De Grandy. I want you to be very
7 honest because we gave you your marching order. The most important question that we have is
8 this the best you can do to protect the African American seat? I'm gonna be blunt and the Anglo
9 seat, but more important, the African American seat?

10 Mr. De Grandy: Commissioner, if — as I said before, if I go any further east, I'm going
11 to dilute the African American percentage. I can play around and trade back and forth between
12 District 1 and District 5 and maybe be able to get a little more African American population, but
13 again that starts disbalancing District 1.

14 Commissioner Reyes: That is my main concern. I have another question. When you were
15 informing us of the number of voters or residents, not voters, residents, correct me if I'm wrong.
16 You stated that District 4 had a surplus, it has more residents.

17 Mr. De Grandy: We have 2.23 over the ideal population.

18 Commissioner Reyes: 2.3 over the ideal population. Now my question is would it be
19 possible and let me tell you this, it is not that I — I mean I'm doing this because I want everybody
20 to feel represented. This is not, I'm gonna take over any neighborhood because all my
21 neighborhoods have been split. You forgot to name Golden Pine. Half of Golden Pine is mine.
22 Half of Golden Pine is his. They're always represented. It doesn't mean because they change
23 commissioner that they're gonna lose the right to vote or they gonna lose their right as citizens

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1 or residents. They're gonna be represented by a City of Miami commissioner. Just let me tell
2 you this, let me ask you this. If the over population that I have, if we take from that
3 overpopulation and we — as I know as you have stated that District 4 will go up to Day Street,
4 right?

5 Mr. De Grandy: District 4 —

6 Commissioner Reyes: — will go —

7 Mr. De Grandy: — to Day Street, yes, that's correct.

8 Commissioner Reyes: — down to Day Street?

9 Mr. De Grandy: Day Avenue.

10 Commissioner Reyes: If we bring District 4 up to US 1 and overpopulate District 2 in
11 that area and see how can we come if we can keep US 1 as — in that area, I'm not talking about
12 past 27th Avenue. Okay? I'm talking about that area. Which is my — ma'am — it is my district.
13 Okay? Could you look into it and see because —

14 Mr. De Grandy: If you're looking, commissioner, that area, 5,071 people is roughly 5 to
15 6% deviation. So, if I were to take —

16 Commissioner Reyes: I'm not talking about Golden Pine. Bring it down to Golden Pine.
17 You see.

18 Mr. De Grandy: In other words, take part.

19 Commissioner Reyes: Take Golden Pine all the way to US 1. You know what I mean?

20 Mr. De Grandy: Stop at US 1.

21 Commissioner Reyes: Yes.

22 Mr. De Grandy: If I stop at US 1, that triangle that has the north as US 1, and the south
23 as Day Avenue, that triangle is 5,071 folks. That's about 5 point something, 6% deviation.

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1 Commissioner Reyes: No but I'm not talking about from 25th — wait a minute. I'm not
2 talking — from 25th down to US 1. I mean you can add that District 4. What I'm talking about
3 now is from US 1 to Day Street.

4 Mr. De Grandy: From US 1 to Day, in other words, this triangle.

5 Commissioner Reyes: From US 1 to Day. Okay?

6 Mr. De Grandy: That triangle —

7 Commissioner Reyes: See how can you work that out and see how we can do that. Okay?

8 Mr. De Grandy: That triangle just to give you rough numbers, is what? 5 something,
9 almost 6%. Okay? Deviation. What that would do, you're now at 2.23. So if I take out 6, you're
10 now under by 4. Okay, but now District 2 is over by 6. That's your 10% no more —

11 Commissioner Reyes: Well that's the only — the — what I was going to suggest and it
12 is what it is. We should do what we have to do.

13 Mr. De Grandy: That's if it —

14 Commissioner Reyes: I personally think that I have a commitment that it was made
15 because I was an advocate for districts at the time. You see and I was not an elected official, but
16 Commissioner Carollo can vouch that I always have my nose in the City of Miami. Okay and I
17 was an advocate for districts. So everybody should be represented. I just wonder if we can try to
18 minimize as much as we can, I'd really appreciate it.

19 Mr. De Grandy: I hear you commissioner but again, if I may for the entire Commission,
20 if you know the concept of the butterfly effect.

21 Commissioner Reyes: That's right.

22 Mr. De Grandy: Every change is affecting another change. So the example that I just
23 gave you is if I did that change alone, I couldn't do any other change that would exceed overall

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1 deviation because I'm right at the [inaudible 03:36:57].

2 Commissioner Reyes: What I was saying is — you see I am 2%, the 6%?

3 Mr. De Grandy: 2.3% over. So if I take 5,000 from you that leaves you at 4 under. Okay?

4 But that now brings that 6% back into the 2 that had 0 deviation. So now, you have 6 and 4.

5 That's your overall deviation as 10. That means I can't make any other changes to the plan. So

6 I can do that. My answer to all of you is if you give me an example, I could tell you yeah, it

7 could be done or not be done, but again, why I'm asking for as much specific direction as possible

8 is because if the Chair has a change and Commissioner Carollo has a change, I need to understand

9 all those in context.

10 Commissioner Reyes: What I want you to do is just analyze as much as you can.

11 Mr. De Grandy: Yes, sir.

12 Commissioner Reyes: How can you play with the numbers and try to keep as much Grove
13 as possible. Always keep in mind that we have a goal here to assure the residents of the City of
14 Miami that they're gonna have representation in all of them.

15 Mr. De Grandy: Understood.

16 Commissioner Reyes: The Anglos and the African Americans, they're gonna have
17 somebody sitting here who's gonna look like them. I'm committed. I think that's it. I am gonna
18 propose that if we're gonna vote on something, let's start making the motions and —

19 Commissioner King: Actually, I haven't had an opportunity today. I go last.

20 Commissioner Reyes: Oh, you're last. That is a trick because you talk whenever you
21 want.

22 Commissioner King: I try not to do that. For me, Mr. De Grandy, I am concerned as you
23 said that District 5 is 51% African American and that could shift so quickly within the next two

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1 years with all of the development that is proposed for District 5. You have shortened a portion
2 of my district in the downtown area and I would like that to remain.

3 Commissioner Reyes: Okay.

4 Commissioner King: I would like you to look at other opportunities to make sure that my
5 community stays intact. So I think now would be appropriate to start looking at the schedules.
6 We can start with the schedules. You said you need approximately two weeks to put together —

7 Mr. De Grandy: Two weeks depending on the number of changes to reconfigure.

8 Commissioner King: — to put together — so you're clear about my changes, right?

9 Mr. De Grandy: Yes and let me comment on that though if I may, Madam Chair because
10 again as I said the butterfly effect. I can certainly bring you back down to your original
11 configuration, down to the river. If I do that; however, a portion that I had connected to give
12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla 25,014 folks in that last part which has three buildings, and it
13 is overwhelmingly Hispanic. That I will have to put back into District 2.

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Madam Chair? I'm thinking that the area he's
15 talking about is not the area you're concerned about. I'm just reading your mind here. You're
16 concerned for the southern part. The part that goes into downtown Miami.

17 Mr. De Grandy: Down to the MRC.

18 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Right.

19 Commissioner King: Yes.

20 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: To the MRC building, that area. What he's doing is
21 doing — the part that I really care about is north of that, where you have four, I think, it's four
22 buildings that are 85 at least percent Hispanic.

23 Mr. De Grandy: Yes.

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Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: So that won't dilute any of your —

Commissioner King: Right.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Of your representation there. So I think there's a balance there that we can be fine. I will be amenable to finding that balance. I don't have a problem with that. Because it's not, you know, it's proper categorical representation you'll have in your district and I'll have in mine.

Commissioner King: It will maintain —

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yeah, maintain.

Commissioner King: Maintain the core of my district that it has been.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I have no quarrel with that.

Mr. De Grandy: Okay.

Commissioner Carollo: Can I make one statement as a point of information? What Mr. De Grandy refers to and he has to because by law, federal law, this is the only way you could break up districts at the local level, at the state house level, the congressional level by population. The reason that your district is still very safe, Black, just like District 2 is very safe, Anglo with a Japanese flavor now, is that that is the overall population. But that is not the voting population and whatever other voters are in those districts, a lot of them, as we know, we know whom a lot of the new buyers are in condominiums, the people that have last moved here. They're not U.S. citizens yet. They haven't become U.S. citizens yet. This is why District 3, my district, even though we've got a certain population, the voter count down is much lower than some of the other districts. Because it's got a lot of that population that are residents but non-voters because they're not U.S. citizens to vote. This is what we also need to keep in mind, the realities of it.

Commissioner King: Absolutely.

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1 Commissioner Russell: Madam Chair?

2 Commissioner King: Go ahead.

3 Commissioner Russell: I just have a question to clarify what you had requested of Mr.
4 De Grandy. If what you have asked him to do retains the southern part of your district, would
5 that keep District 1 from touching District 2 anymore? Would that eliminate that connection?

6 Mr. De Grandy: Yes, that would.

7 Commissioner Russell: My ask of creativity was to take District 1 and allow it to wrap
8 around a little bit and if that's not possible, I would recommend District 3 go further north along
9 the border of District 5 since you've already got that touching. So just whatever honors the
10 Chairwoman's request, but still allows us to find more population for the north of my district
11 versus the south.

12 Commissioner King: So let's start. You said you needed 2 weeks and I'm looking at the
13 Commission Meetings calendar. Today is the 7th. Giving the remainder of this week and all of
14 next week, could you have the map to us by the 21st?

15 Mr. De Grandy: By the 24th?

16 Commissioner Russell: Madam Chair, I'm out of town on the 21st.

17 Commissioner King: No, that's just when he delivers a map.

18 Commissioner Russell: Oh, okay.

19 Commissioner King: It's just when he delivers the map. 21.

20 Commissioner Russell: 21, it's a Monday.

21 Commissioner King: Pardon. I know. I mean it would — if you're gonna deliver it on
22 Monday, it won't be ready on Monday. So I'm just — yes. Yes, by the 21st. Okay. So if we can
23 have the map by the 21st I'm thinking —

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1 Commissioner Carollo: Well, then you — 22nd. So he's got a full 2 weeks.

2 Commissioner Russell: Are you ready for a marathon week?

3 Commissioner King: Well, we —

4 Commissioner Russell: 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

5 Commissioner Reyes: I wanna bring up that the 23rd, I won't be able to be here cause I

6 have to be with my grandson who's gonna go under the knife, little kids.

7 Commissioner King: That is important.

8 Commissioner Russell: 24th, 25th, or the 1st?

9 Commissioner Carollo: That's right, 24, 25th and the 23rd. The 23rd I called Marianne

10 and set up that special meeting. That please change it. I don't know if we have changes, because

11 it's a personal matter and I will —

12 Commissioner Russell: Can you be here the 23rd?

13 Commissioner Reyes: The 23rd, no.

14 Commissioner Russell: What day can you be here?

15 Commissioner Reyes: After the 23rd, whenever you want me to.

16 Commissioner Russell: After which one?

17 Commissioner King: How about the 25th.

18 Commissioner Reyes: Huh?

19 Commissioner Russell: After the 23rd?

20 Commissioner Reyes: Yes, after the —

21 Commissioner King: How about the 25th?

22 Commissioner Carollo: The 1st, the 1st.

23 [Crosstalk]

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1 Commissioner Russell: 25th and then March 1st is Monday.

2 Commissioner Reyes: But what I'm saying is what special meeting are we having on the
3 25th?

4 Commissioner Russell: We have a Miami Freedom Park Special Meeting on the 25th.

5 Commissioner King: On the 23rd. [Crosstalk] It's been changed cause it's not on my
6 calendar. It's the 25th.

7 Commissioner Russell: Yeah, they changed cause he couldn't be here.

8 Commissioner Carollo: You know what? I would put this meeting on the 2th. This is
9 more important right now.

10 Commissioner Russell: Oh, yes.

11 Commissioner Reyes: We can do both.

12 Commissioner Russell: Yeah.

13 Commissioner Carollo: No, it's gonna take a while.

14 Commissioner Russell: You don't wanna mix it.

15 Commissioner Carollo: You don't wanna mix it? I think we should do the Freedom Park
16 thing the following week sometime.

17 Commissioner Reyes: Yes.

18 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

19 Commissioner Reyes: I agree with you.

20 Commissioner Carollo: Do this one the 25th.

21 Commissioner King: The will of the body. Commissioner?

22 Commissioner Carollo: The one thing though that I'd like though, for information for all
23 of us, is the clerk — I had asked them when we were speaking if he could call the county and

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1 tell them pretty please if they could give us an extension. He's got some information for us that
2 I think is good cause it's buying us more time supposedly, we could end up saving the money.

3 Mr. Clerk, can you explain what you were told?

4 Todd Hannon: Yes, sir. Commissioners, we could receive an extension till March 10th,
5 to March 10th. Now the state legislature, they will be wrapping up their maps. They'll be
6 completing their maps once the session ends on March 11th. Yes, sir.

7 Commissioner Russell: The state legislature will not have the map ready till March 11th
8 at the end of session.

9 Mr. Hannon: Correct.

10 Commissioner Russell: So by the time they process that, we're easily talking about the
11 following week, probably the end of the following week is March 18th. So why would they need
12 it on March 10th? Can you push them a little harder?

13 Mr. Hannon: They just — you cannot guarantee a deadline after the legislature —
14 legislative session ends. So you know we have a Committee Meeting on March 10th. The
15 legislative session ends on March 11th. It could wrap up at any point in time after that. So the
16 county can't deal with just hypotheticals. We know there is an ending at least for the legislative
17 session. We have a Commission Meeting on March 10th. So we just run the risk after March
18 10th of potentially occurring those costs.

19 Commissioner Russell: But the odds are that there will probably be a loss on that
20 particular district apply to. They have a license this year. This is the absurdity of the Miami Dade
21 Election Department. Their elections are in August of this year. They're saying we wait for the
22 legislature and it's probably gonna be a loss because there always is on what happens up there.
23 There will be a delay in that too. They're probably gonna get the final maps from Tallahassee

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1 probably at some point in June. Okay, so this artificial — so I'm confident that whatever you
2 wanna post by will of the body, I'm confident that that March 10th deadline is gonna be easily
3 extended as we move forward. For now, we'll deal. I'm pretty confident of that.

4 Commissioner King: Okay, so let's see. First deadline we have is February 22nd delivery
5 of the map. We agree on that?

6 Commissioner Carollo: Yes.

7 Commissioner King: Okay, that's the first one; delivery of the map.

8 Commissioner Reyes: And by delivery, you mean get it to you.

9 Commissioner King: To us, to us. So then, we need to set another special meeting.

10 Commissioner Russell: February 25th.

11 Commissioner King: Is that the will of the body?

12 Commissioner Carollo: Yes.

13 Commissioner Russell: This is my question.

14 Commissioner Carollo: We'll do a motion, right?

15 Commissioner Russell: This was my question.

16 Commissioner King: Right. Just getting an idea.

17 Commissioner Russell: Since we had such an in-depth look at the process, the reasoning
18 and everything in this meeting, do we believe that we must have a special meeting to get the
19 second round or could we incorporate it into our Commission Meeting as a —

20 Commissioner King: I think we should have a special meeting because this — we've
21 been at this for several hours and I wouldn't want to drag ours — it's more specialized. It's a
22 direct subject and I wouldn't want to rush it because our commission meeting is dragging. I'm
23 in agreement with a Special meeting if that is the will of the body.

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1 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes, I'll make that motion.

2 Commissioner King: Okay wait a minute don't make a motion, yet.

3 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay.

4 Commissioner King: February 25th, Special Meeting.

5 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes, ma'am.

6 Commissioner King: And then 2-weeks after our Special Meeting we have to take it to
7 our communities, correct?

8 Commissioner Reyes: Correct.

9 Commissioner King: So 2-weeks after the 25th of February would be —

10 Commissioner Carollo: Actually we could take it before that. If we know now that on the
11 25th we're gonna give a final look at this.

12 Commissioner King: But that only gives us 3-days from the time —

13 Commissioner Carollo: No, we can start advertising it now. Is what I'm saying.

14 Commissioner King: No, we can start advertising it.

15 Commissioner Portilla: I can do my community meeting on February 23rd if we can have
16 the maps by the 22nd, right? The next day I can have my community meeting. I can advertise it
17 now.

18 Commissioner Reyes: Do we have —?

19 Commissioner King: No, and that's the point. So that we have time to advertise it
20 between now and receipt of the map. If it's the will of the body that's fine with me.

21 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: We may not be able to because we have to have the
22 actual map.

23 Commissioner King: Right.

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Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: And then advertise that actual map.

Commissioner King: Exactly.

Commissioner Reyes: That's right.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: So everyone can see that actual map.

Commissioner King: So that's why I'm saying 2-weeks after the delivery of the map.

Commissioner Reyes: Madame Chair?

Commissioner King: Mm-hm.

Commissioner Reyes: Question: When we advertise it, every commissioner is going to present it at a given date or is there going to be a date? Or is there gonna be a date that everybody is presenting?

Commissioner King: Well, for me, I'm thinking that each of you decide on how you want to present it to your communities.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Of course everybody has their own schedule.

Commissioner King: Each of you decides when and how.

Commissioner Reyes: Individually?

Commissioner King: Yes, individually.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: We have a 2-week window to do our community.

Commissioner King: Right, you're gonna have a 2-week window.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: We pick the date.

Commissioner Reyes: So the advertisement, the meeting advertisement should come out of the Commissioner's Office.

Commissioner King: Right, correct. Each of our offices will advertise our community meetings and you can start advertising the community meetings from today.

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1 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yep.

2 Commissioner King: Because we're setting the deadlines for today. So we have delivery
3 of the map on the 22nd. We're gonna have a special meeting on the 25th.

4 Mr. Hannon: Time commissioner, time.

5 Commissioner King: I'll get to the time in a minute. All right, so then we're gonna have
6 the time. Do we need the special meeting before we take the maps to our communities or after?
7 I think it would be prudent to have the special meeting after.

8 Commissioner Carollo: Well, yes, but I think we'd need one to be fully satisfied with
9 what we have.

10 Commissioner King: Okay, agreed, everyone? All right, so special meeting on the 25th.

11 Commissioner Carollo: So that will be then what will finally go before the community.

12 Commissioner King: Okay, so 2-weeks after the 25th takes us into, let's say March 15th?
13 It's either March 13th, or March 15th. Which one will it be?

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: What day is March 15th?

15 Commissioner King: March 15th is a Wednesday.

16 Commissioner Carollo: No it's a —

17 Commissioner King: And it's a non-commission meeting.

18 Commissioner Russell: Its a Tuesday.

19 Commissioner King: Its a Tuesday. I'm sorry and it's a non-commission meeting week.

20 Commissioner Carollo: That's for us to meet on the final —

21 Commissioner King: Mm-hm. mm-hm.

22 Commissioner Carollo: — is what you're saying. Why don't we do it on Monday the
23 14th?

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1 Commissioner King: Monday the 14th?

2 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

3 Commissioner Portilla: Why don't we do it the same week we have the commission
4 meeting the following week. We have time.

5 Commissioner Carollo: When do we have the Commission meeting then?

6 Commissioner King: On the 24th.

7 Commissioner Carollo: Mm, we could do it on the 14th or if not —

8 Commissioner King: I think we should do it the week of the 13th any day that week.

9 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay, so that Monday.

10 Commissioner Carollo: the morning of the 14th. March 14th.

11 Commissioner King: Monday the 14th.

12 Stephan Cody: 14th, okay, March. You want to do it all in one motion?

13 Commissioner King: Yes. So we have to decide the time of the Special meeting.

14 Commissioner Carollo: Then between the 26th to the 11th or the 10th we go to our
15 individual communities?

16 Commissioner King: Yes, yes.

17 Commissioner Carollo: You want to cut it up for the 10th, Thursday? You want to go
18 until 11th Friday?

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: 11th Friday if that's the case.

20 Commissioner Carollo: Okay.

21 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Same thing because I don't think no one is going to
22 have it on Friday anyway.

23 Commissioner King: The City Clerk has given me some direction so we'll do three

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1 resolutions so we can specify what each special meeting is for.

2 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Right.

3 Commissioner King: May I have a motion —

4 Mr. Hannon: Just a moment.

5 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: For the Special February 25th, Commission meeting.

6 Commissioner Carollo: Well, no its the delivery of the map.

7 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: A motion to deliver the map on February 22nd to this
8 Commission by 5pm close of business.

9 Commissioner King: Do I have a second?

10 Commissioner Carollo: Second.

11 Commissioner King: Is there any further discussion? All in favor?

12 All Commissioners: Aye.

13 Commissioner Carollo: The motion for a Special Commission meeting.

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: At 10am.

15 Commissioner Carollo: At 10am.

16 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I'll second that.

17 Commissioner King: Any discussion?

18 Mr. Hannon: Chair the specific purpose for that meeting. What's going to occur?

19 Commissioner King: The purpose of that special meeting is to accept the redistricting
20 map as provided from Miguel De Grandy.

21 Commissioner Carollo: Yes.

22 City Attorney: Madame Chair, can we make it similar, I'm sorry I apologize.

23 Commissioner King: I'm sorry.

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1 City Attorney: I was just going to say, how about if we say for the purpose of considering
2 and taking any and all actions related to the redistricting of City Commission Districts including,
3 but not limited to the drafting of any related maps and boundaries.

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes, because we can change our minds on that day,
5 right?

6 Commissioner King: Well, we should have gone to you in the first place to give us the
7 title, Todd what he said.

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yeah.

9 Commissioner King: For the Special meeting on —

10 Mr. Hannon: I'm sorry you had a motion and second can we just take a vote on that
11 motion.

12 Commissioner Carollo: Motion and second.

13 Commissioner King: All in favor?

14 All Commissioners: Aye.

15 Commissioner King: Motion passes unanimously.

16 Commissioner Russell: Madam Chair, for the 14th I'm currently scheduled to be out of
17 town.

18 Commissioner King: Okay, when will you return?

19 Commissioner Russell: Looks, I would be back that weekend. I'm available all the
20 following week from the 21st on.

21 Commissioner Carollo: Will you be here on the 11th?

22 Commissioner Russell: That looks like that's when I may be —

23 Commissioner Carollo: Huh?

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Commissioner Russell: Yes, I will be here on the 11th.

Commissioner Carollo: Well why don't we then cut off until the 9th of March with our community meetings and then hold the meeting on the 11th.

Commissioner Russell: I'm available then.

Commissioner Carollo: Okay so we have to rescind the motion that we would have —

Commissioner King: Well we didn't, we didn't make a motion for that so you could do that whenever you want. You can meet with your communities whenever you want.

Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: So we want to have the meeting then, March 11th.

Commissioner King: Yes.

Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, the meeting will be for March 11th.

Commissioner King: Mr. Attorney, could you give us the language for the Special meeting to take place on March 11th.

Mr. Wysong: The Special Meeting would also be for the special purpose of considering and taking any and all actions related to the redistricting of city commission districts including but not limited to the drafting of any related maps and boundaries.

Commissioner Carollo: Same thing, same [inaudible 03:57:35].

Commissioner King: May I have a motion?

Commissioner Carollo: So moved.

Commissioner King: Second? At 10am?

All Commissioners: 10am.

Commissioner King: 10am, all in favor?

All Commissioners: Aye

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Commissioner King: Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. De Grandy: If I may. madam chair so I could be clear. On the 25th are we also at 10am?

Commissioner King: Yes.

Mr. De Grandy: The 25th are we also 10 am?

Commissioner King: Yes.

Mr. De Grandy: Okay, 10am the 25th and 10am on March 11th. Now Madam Chair if I understand correctly. On the 25th I will simply present to you the revised plan.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: On the 22nd.

Mr. De Grandy: No, on the 22nd I will deliver it.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay.

Mr. De Grandy: On the 25th I will present it.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay, okay.

Mr. De Grandy: Then from there you will all go to your districts. On March 11th we come back for final passage.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes.

Commissioner King: Correct.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Now for consideration. As he titled it.

Mr. De Grandy: Right, any and all actions which includes final passage.

Commissioner King: Correct.

Mr. De Grandy: Okay. Got it.

Commissioner Carollo: If we could be guided by the City Attorney and the City Clerk on the best ways so that we could start now in advertising that we're going to have a community

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1 meeting within our districts. If they could give us some guidance on that.

2 Mr. Wysong: Typically the main consideration is adequate notice. So I believe that all
3 you have to do is coordinate with the City Clerk and the City Clerk will publish the notice for it.
4 We try to do 7-days in advance. We'll schedule it as a Sunshine Meeting and that's all we'll have
5 to do.

6 Commissioner Carollo: Well, we're gonna do it separately in our districts when we said.

7 Mr. Wysong: Right so each meeting would noticed that District 3 meeting to discuss the
8 redistricting plan. We'll publish that on the internet as well as post it.

9 Commissioner Carollo: Mr. Clerk, can we begin working that with the you so that all of
10 us, by this week, will have you the information and you can go at the latest Friday or Monday.
11 And start advertising them

12 After we decide the time, the location, and the date?

13 Mr. Hannon: Yes, sir.

14 Commissioner Carollo: Is that okay with everybody?

15 Commissioner King: That's perfect.

16 Commissioner Carollo: We don't need a vote on that, I think your —

17 Commissioner King: Okay so I believe this will conclude our —

18 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: No, I believe we have a motion on the Coconut Grove
19 question. That we had discussed earlier.

20 Commissioner Russell: I'd like to make the motion.

21 Commissioner King: Please Commissioner Russell.

22 Commissioner Russell: My motion would be to direct Mr. De Grandy to make absolute
23 best efforts to utilize US 1 as the boundary in Coconut Grove and Miami Avenue the boundary

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1 further north of 15th where possible. If absolutely necessary Miami Avenue can come further
2 south as you need to grab folks out of District 2, but we make all efforts to maintain the integrity
3 of Coconut Grove part of District 2.

4 Commissioner King: Do I have a motion for that?

5 Commissioner Russell: That's my motion.

6 Commissioner King: Do I have a second?

7 Commissioner Russell: I'd like to hear discussion than for what the potential pushback
8 is because —

9 Commissioner Reyes: Well there's no second the motion dies for lack of a second.

10 Commissioner Russell: I'd just like to discuss —

11 Commissioner King: Hold on, hold on. Todd if there's no second do we have a
12 discussion?

13 Mr. Hannon: It's the will of the body. The motion fails for a lack of a second. It's the
14 will of the body to decide what direction they want to go next.

15 Commissioner Russell: I'm just seeking guidance, Chairwoman, on if I had worded it in
16 a way, if there's a part of my motion that is causing discomfort that we can address that. Then I
17 can adjust the motion.

18 Commissioner King: I don't think your colleagues are — I think I gave Mr. De Grandy
19 some direction as well. I think he can take your direction and try to, as best he can, incorporate
20 it into drawing the map. I don't think we need to do a motion on it. Mr. De Grandy?

21 Mr. De Grandy: I would like to have direction, because quite frankly if I am to take out
22 all the things I crossed over US 1 on, I do have to make some significant changes in other
23 districts. So I need some clear direction.

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1 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: There's a reality here. You can't go north because we
2 have a protected district, which is District 5, okay. I-95 is a clear boundary so we have a district
3 that includes District 5, and District 2, east of I-95. The only place we can go, we can't go west
4 cause the city ends. So we have to go south, there is no other place to go. The growth is south.

5 Commissioner King: Let me — okay commissioner —

6 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: — so my motion, my motion is, my motion — if you
7 allow me, my motion will be to do whatever he is proposing, including splitting Coconut Grove
8 to make sure that we have proportional representation, one man, one vote in the City of Miami.

9 Commissioner King: Hold on wait, wait. Hold on, hold on.

10 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Well I know he knows that, but he wants the record to
11 be — I know he knows that but he wants direction.

12 Commissioner King: Hold on —

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I think there's some confusion if I may let me just give
14 you my thoughts on that one.

15 Commissioner King: Hold on let me check with Todd. Todd are we still on the previous
16 motion from Commissioner Russell?

17 Mr. Hannon: That motion died for lack of a second.

18 Commissioner King: That motion died.

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Right.

20 Commissioner King: Now we have Díaz de la Portilla's motion, which is, which is?

21 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Well let me say the reason first. The reason is he
22 already has a map. He made it very clear that he wants direction from this commission. All of a
23 sudden he goes away today and he has direction or an opinion from one commissioner and not

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1 the will of the body then he creates all kinds of problems moving forward. To make it clear with
2 the will of the Commission. That's why you're requesting a motion and an approval of that
3 motion. So that we are in essence endorsing parts of your initial map to be able to go south
4 because that's the only place. The only reason he wants south my understanding is because that's
5 the only place he can go.

6 Mr. De Grandy: Well, Commissioner Russell is right, but it's a policy decision. I can
7 go —

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: East.

9 Mr. De Grandy: — east on District 3 into downtown. It's a policy decision whether you
10 want that movement. I didn't do it because the demographics were dissimilar, but that's all policy
11 decisions for you all to make.

12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: But you went east in District 5 —

13 Mr. De Grandy: As far as I could go.

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: To add population as far as you can go without
15 diluting minority voting power in that particular District 5.

16 Mr. De Grandy: I couldn't go further.

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: What my motion and how you want to phrase it,
18 maybe you can help me Mr. Wysong, in essence, allow you to move forward with this initial
19 concept of moving south, including dividing Coconut Grove on the natural boundaries, if you
20 want. It could be all the way to South Bayshore Drive if everyone is so concerned about natural
21 boundaries or artificial boundaries as US 1. Well, South Bayshore Drive is also an artificial
22 boundary.

23 You go as further south as the balance of population to be able to get adequate

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1 representation for every particular district. The reality is that we have a district that has 27,000
2 plus more people in it and that is where it has to come from. There are other — as Commissioner
3 Carollo expressed, Commissioner Reyes followed up and I did too. There are many communities
4 in the City of Miami that are split. Many, there's probably — I went back to my office. I left out
5 about three or four so there's probably about twelve cohesive communities in the City of Miami
6 that have been split including: Parts of Liberty City, parts of Wynwood, parts of Allapattah,
7 Silver Bluff, you mentioned Golden Pines, it goes on and Allapattah it goes on and on and on.
8 So it's not a unique affront to Coconut Grove or anything like that. That's happened before for
9 decades here.

10 The reality is that you want to consider yourself a particular community, you're really
11 four communities in one. There is more cohesion in Flagami and Little Havana in terms of
12 demographics, in terms of income, in terms of communities of interest than there is in Coconut
13 Grove. The other fact of the matter is, I forget the exact numbers, but it's 493 African Americans,
14 that triangle you talked about, almost 2,500 Hispanics, and 1,900 Whites. Those are the numbers
15 and what Mr. De Grandy is working on is one thing only, not politics. He's working on numbers.
16 He's got to find representation for 8,000 in one, 7,000 in another and you're 27 over populated,
17 not you, District 2, it's not about you. It's about District 2 and we shouldn't refer to it as my
18 district. I did it a couple of times so I'm at fault too. It's about representation whoever's here.
19 That reflects the population of the City of Miami. The fact of the matter is that we have to go
20 south. I want to make it clear, however you phrase that motion that this commission has no
21 objection going south and to your initial plan in concept, maybe not in detail, but in concept, of
22 moving south. That will be the motion.

23 Commissioner King: Mr. Attorney can you phrase that motion for us.

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1 Mr. Wysong: Yeah and I would also double check with Mr. De Grandy because it seems
2 to me like the direction he's getting is he went in the correct direction and to keep proceeding in
3 that direction with the plan that he has already submitted. Save for the tweak for District 5 and
4 the downtown area, but essentially to keep the plan consistent with how it was drafted. Is that —

5 Mr. De Grandy: Yes. As I understood you're motion it is to not hold the US 1 line to the
6 extent that I need to take population to equalize.

7 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Move south young man.

8 Mr. De Grandy: To the extent that I need to make the population.

9 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes, yes sir. To balance it out. That's my motion.

10 Commissioner Reyes: Madam Chair.

11 Commissioner King: Hold on a second, there's a motion on the floor. Do I have a second.

12 Commissioner Reyes: I'm going to add something to it and see if I can second it. What
13 I'm going to add instead of explicitly saying or naming neighborhoods to do as necessary to go
14 as far as necessary as required in order to maintain the integrity of the districts in making sure
15 that everybody is represented. All the districts are going to be able to elect representatives that
16 are from their districts that be it and from there — okay and go as far.

17 Commissioner King: Having said that I don't believe we need a motion because that is
18 what your charge is already is that not correct?

19 Mr. De Grandy: That is, but whether to cross US 1 is a policy decision. As Commissioner
20 Russell rightly stated, I could go into downtown into District 3. The question is from a policy
21 perspective do you want that or do you want me to go south on US 1.

22 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: For my motion to be clear. The core of my motion is
23 to go south. That's the core of my motion. Everything else you'll come up with a map and debate

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1 it.

2 Commissioner King: Commissioner Russell.

3 Commissioner Russell: Thank you because I may stand corrected.

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: But do I have a second? Did we have a second though?

5 Commissioner Russell: You do Manolo seconded.

6 Commissioner Reyes: I seconded.

7 Commissioner Russell: I may stand corrected then because what I earlier stated was that
8 I don't believe there is an intention from this commission to break up the Grove that it's only if
9 absolutely necessary and I think there is, I hope there is an effort to keep neighborhoods together
10 where possible. That would be my friendly amendment because if absolutely necessary we have
11 to do what we have to do. But I do believe Mr. De Grandy equalize and meet the legal standards
12 and still keep the Grove together. There is another factor I would like to mention because I can
13 tell you are also drawing these lines based on assumptions of growth.

14 The RTZ in both Douglas Station and Grove Station is going to add a tremendous
15 population to District 4 and possibly District 3 depending on where the lines are, but mostly I
16 believe District 4. Those have not come online yet. They haven't hit the TCOs yet but the Grove
17 Link I think it's called in Douglas Station and then the Terra Project in Grove Station. This is
18 going to add tremendous growth to District 4. I would like to see that if possible we do give
19 direction to hold the community together if not possible. Then we can talk, but if there is an
20 intention to break up the Grove, that feels like the message we're giving and we're sending him
21 south to break up the Grove where there are options that I'm very comfortable with in the West
22 Brickell and West Downtown areas that does not disturb District 5 well they could be absorbed
23 into 3 or 1.

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1 Commissioner King: Okay, hold on one second. I do not believe that there is any
2 intention to break up any community.

3 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Correct.

4 Commissioner King: There's no intention to break up any community. So the direction
5 is — can you read the — Mr. City Attorney, can you read us the resolution title again.

6 Mr. Wysong: Yeah, as I got it it's the consultant will consider the moving south into
7 District 2.

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: That's correct.

9 Commissioner Russell: That's an intention.

10 Commissioner King: Let's consider, and can you add Commissioner Russell's friendly
11 amendment?

12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Well it's not friendly.

13 Commissioner King: It's not? Well, can you just read —

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I say it's not friendly because it muddies the waters.

15 Commissioner King: Hold on —

16 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: I think we need to be clear.

17 Commissioner King: — okay but hold on. Let him just read it so I can just hear it.

18 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay.

19 Commissioner King: What was his amendment?

20 Mr. Wysong: I think it was similar to D4's which is while attempting to maintain the
21 integrity of the district.

22 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: While attempting to maintain the integrity of the
23 district.

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1 Commissioner Carollo: I don't accept that amendment because by including that
2 amendment it's going to bring us to another round of discussions.

3 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Correct.

4 Commissioner Carollo: And possible challenges based on that amendment.

5 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes.

6 Commissioner Carollo: So from the legal perspective and point of view I think that
7 amendment would be harmful to this process and to the City. So I don't accept it.

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yeah, it's not a friendly amendment. I think we were
9 very clear in what we want to do and I think Mr. De Grandy needs direction in what we want to
10 do and that's why I think we need a motion.

11 Commissioner King: Okay so again.

12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: And a vote.

13 Commissioner King: I have a motion and I have a second. Can you read me the motion
14 again? So we're all clear.

15 Mr. Wysong: Right it's directing the consultant to, as I said, consider going south into
16 District 2 to obtain voter consistency.

17 Mr. De Grandy: Okay and balance of population.

18 Mr. Wysong: To obtain — yeah, and to balance it.

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Balance of population.

20 Mr. De Grandy: Because, again, I want to be clear so that I understand, you understand
21 and there's no surprises. If I make some of the changes that you all are talking about. For example
22 in that part of the river, I've gotta give 2,500 folks back to District 2. I've gotta take them out of
23 somewhere. So there is a possibility I might actually narrow what I'm gonna take from the Grove.

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Commissioner Russell: So District 5, you give the River folks back to —

Mr. De Grandy: Excuse me?:

Commissioner Russell: You give the river folks back to District 5, correct? You said 2.

Mr. De Grandy: Yes, no, because District 5 ended at NW 1st Street in that area.

Commissioner Carollo: Yes.

Mr. De Grandy: I brought it down to North Miami.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: 1st Avenue, 1st Avenue.

Mr. De Grandy: Yeah, so I moved one, yeah, I moved it one avenue. The block immediately touching the river on that section that I brought down has 2,500 people so if I'm going to keep the MRC in District 2. I could keep the MRC, I could keep the FPL site. Across from it has no population, doesn't have an impact on my plan, but the effect is to now disconnect those 2,500 people that I was going to give to D1. So I've got to give them back to D2 or I've got to give them —

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: To District 5.

Commissioner King: District 5

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: District 5 is who you're gonna give it to.

Commissioner King: No, you're gonna just leave it.

Mr. De Grandy: I was going to give it to District 5. It was never District 5's.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: But it is now, but it is now.

Mr. De Grandy: It was District 2's, in my proposed plan it went to District 1.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: And now we're giving it to District 5.

Mr. De Grandy: No, District 5 wants to come down to get the MRC.

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Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Right.

Commissioner King: Well could —

Mr. De Grandy: I could do that without those 2,500 people.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Oh, correct.

Mr. De Grandy: But then I need to move those 2,500 people into either D2 or cross the river down into D3, those are my 2 choices.

Commissioner Reyes: Question, question, question. I have a question. If you go down, you go down and you give those additional voters to District 5, how is that going to affect the composition of the rest of the position over there? That is what I am concerned about.

Mr. De Grandy: What that will do is right now District 1 has a .35% deviation. Less than 1%, so if I take out those 2,500 people that's about 3%, 2.8%.

Commissioner Russell: Excuse me Miguel?

Mr. De Grandy: Yes.

Commissioner Russell: Can the IT Department take the feed off my computer and put it up.

Commissioner King: Wait, we're going too far into the weeds. The motion as I understand it is to not tie your hands.

Mr. De Grandy: Right, but to make sure Reyes wanted an explanation.

Commissioner King: Right, so going a little.

Commissioner Reyes: So are we going please?

[Crosstalk]

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: But, madam chair, I think on that point it's clear. That little triangle takes it down to Miami, to the Miami River, those 2,900 people can go to District

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1 1. The other side of North Miami goes to District 5, right? Where the MRC and all that is and
2 all that, right?

3 Mr. De Grandy: Right, the MRC goes into 5.

4 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: On your map, yes. That's part of what he drew.

5 Mr. De Grandy: Those 2,500 can either go back to District 2 or cross the river to District
6 3. Now, just if I may just finish this one thought, madam chair, because I think it's important for
7 everybody to understand how one thing —

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Impacts another.

9 Mr. De Grandy: — affects another. If I take those 2,514 people and put them into District
10 2. That ups — it's a deviation from 0 to close to 3%. He's at 3.5 so taking it out from his will
11 put him at 2.5. Now my deviation is no longer — because I'd have different highs and lows, no
12 longer 3.8, my deviation now is 5 and change.

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Can we call the question Madam Chair?

14 Commissioner King: Right, call to question.

15 Mr. Hannon: And Chair just again for clarification. The motion is directing consultants
16 to consider moving south beyond US 1 to maintain balance of population.

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes, that's the motion.

18 Mr. Hannon: Is there anything else?

19 Commissioner King: There was a motion and a second.

20 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Second.

21 Mr. Hannon: Yes it's moved.

22 Commissioner King: All in favor?

23 Commissioner Reyes: Aye.

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1 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Aye.

2 Commissioner Carollo: Aye.

3 Commissioner Russell: I'm a no.

4 Commissioner King: Hold on let me do by person.

5 Commissioner Russell: Roll call.

6 Commissioner King: Roll call. All in favor. All in favor?

7 Mr. Hannon: Give me one second.

8 Commissioner Carollo: They're blocking you.

9 Mr. Hannon: Roll call on the motion. Directing the consultant to consider moving south

10 beyond US 1 to maintain balance of population. Commissioner Russell?

11 Commissioner Russell: No.

12 Mr. Hannon: Commissioner Carollo?

13 Commissioner Carollo: Yes.

14 Mr. Hannon: Commissioner Reyes?

15 Commissioner Reyes: Yes.

16 Mr. Hannon: Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla?

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes.

18 Mr. Hannon: Commissioner/Chair King?

19 Commissioner King: Yes.

20 Mr. Hannon: The motion passes 4/1.

21 Commissioner King: And this will conclude —

22 Commissioner Carollo: No, no, no, no.

23 Commissioner King: No, we have more?

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1 Commissioner Carollo: No, I think we need to give Mr. De Grandy a few more areas of
2 clear directions. Let me go into them. Mr. De Grandy I wanted to leave here today where you
3 have a pretty clear consensus of where you are heading.

4 Mr. De Grandy: I appreciate that.

5 Commissioner Carollo: At the same time Mr. Clerk when are the elections again for
6 District 3?

7 Mr. Hannon: For District 3?

8 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, my District.

9 Mr. Hannon: Would be 2025.

10 Commissioner Carollo: Can I run again?

11 Mr. Hannon: No, sir. You would be termed out.

12 Commissioner Carollo: Okay. Okay I'm term limited, so I'm not trying to cut districts in
13 any way to benefit me or anything like that. What I am trying to do is, number one: As I stated,
14 were my goals from day 1 in the year 2000. When I put all my political whereabouts to get a
15 referendum passed for districts, so that we could have African American representation first and
16 foremost. Then into the future be able to have guaranteed Anglo representation, and to have three
17 districts that were Hispanic. These are my intentions here today. I have no doubt that the way
18 that we'll break in District 5 is gonna be an African American representation. Anyway we cut
19 District 2 the same would happen, because when you look at the voting population, they'll be
20 very high, they'll be able to accomplish that.

21 My concern now is just the opposite of back in 2000. My concern is that if we dilute
22 some of these districts, or one district or another. In particular District 3 and possibly District 1,
23 because District 4 is the most Hispanic by far of any of these three districts. That we're risking

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1 into the future, ending up with two districts of Hispanics. So we might have a population that is
2 very plus-majority Hispanic, but because the voting power is not there, you end up differently.
3 This is why I'm going this way. And let's begin in the Grove so that we can finish that and then
4 I'll jump into the rest of the districts.

5 The North Grove, as the gentleman explained to me in his mind, is just past the beginning
6 of 27th Avenue is the North Grove, all the way to where the road that divides — past 17th
7 Avenue. The enclave that we have here next to the museums, these areas are the North Grove.
8 You had suggested that you would come from US 1 all the way from Day Avenue across to 27th
9 Avenue and go up to US 1, where you have pretty close to a triangle, to go to District 4. That
10 would take, out of the 5,071 residents, that would take 497 Black residents out of the traditional
11 West Grove area. I guess you've got a couple of streets in they're slivered. I would suggest that,
12 to try to keep Grove neighborhoods that are more cohesive together. Is instead of giving that to
13 District 4, you go down 27th, South Bayshore Drive, 22nd Avenue, US 1, and you take that area
14 of the North Grove. This way you are dealing with only the North Grove.

15 Mr. De Grandy: Instead of —

16 Commissioner Carollo: Instead of that other triangle.

17 Mr. De Grandy: Okay.

18 Commissioner Carollo: If, for any reason, I don't know what the numbers are, you still
19 need a little bit more population than what you have there. Then use Bird Road as your boundary
20 line. Bird from 27th to US 1, I guess it goes to 32nd more or less, and you like Home Depots
21 right? You get another one. [Laughter.] I would suggest that you try that and this way there's no
22 question whatsoever that the West Grove, the Black Grove, would not be affected in any way in
23 any of the changes.

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1 Unidentified commissioner: [inaudible 4:24:45]

2 Commissioner Carollo: Well, what I'm saying commissioner, is that we begin with 27th
3 Avenue to 22nd Avenue, US 1 to South Bayshore Drive so you could bring in the North Grove.

4 Unidentified commissioner: [inaudible 4:25:04]

5 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, and if you need any additional numbers, which I don't
6 know what they'll be, because the triangle that he's pointed out now seems to be bigger. Then
7 you go down across, but Bird Avenue should be the dividing line. From 27th to US 1.

8 Unidentified commissioner: [inaudible 4:25:29]

9 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, okay, well I'm glad you are happy with that because I'm
10 not so sure you might be as happy with the next one, but remember my words. You have the
11 most Hispanic — and I'll even go and use the word that's a no-no — besides the most Hispanic,
12 you have the most Cuban district —

13 Commissioner Reyes: It is, it is, it is the —

14 Commissioner Carollo: Out of the three because you have a lot of people with roots.
15 Your district is, for the most part, single family homes, people that have bought their homes that
16 have lived there

17 Commissioner Reyes: And settled, for many years —

18 Commissioner Carollo: For years and years. Whereas, in Commissioner Díaz de la
19 Portilla's district, in my district, we have a lot of old units. That you have people that move out.
20 I wonder sometimes if it's every month. You know, by the sofas that I see out in the streets.

21 Commissioner Reyes: Also I want to add that in my district we have a lot of people that
22 are voters that have been voters for many, many, many years.

23 Commissioner Carollo: That's correct.

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1 Commissioner Reyes: And you don't have that.

2 Commissioner Carollo: What I was saying before.

3 Commissioner Reyes: You see, and also Mr. Díaz de la Portilla. One thing that Mr. De
4 Grandy has to take into consideration is the number of voters. What is the percentage of people
5 that vote there?

6 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

7 Commissioner Reyes: You see.

8 Commissioner King: So gentlemen, gentlemen if I may —

9 Commissioner Reyes: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm a part of the public now.

10 Commissioner King: Yes, that's right.

11 Commissioner Carollo: In the changes that Mr. De Grandy made. You've gotten a huge
12 Hispanic area on the other side of US 1

13 Mr. De Grandy: Correct.

14 Commissioner Carollo: With a 10-acre park. Douglas Road Park. It's a 10-acre park. A
15 very nice park.

16 Commissioner Reyes: I'll take it.

17 Commissioner Carollo: Well he's put that already but see where I'm going at is that
18 where you're getting all the sirloin but none of the bone. There has to be a balance into the future.
19 So that District 3 — which I can't run again so it's not me — and District 1, can keep the same
20 type of last names, faces that they have, and that we don't end up with diluting artificially,
21 Hispanic population in the City of Miami. So, what I'm proposing Mr. De Grandy is, I think
22 we're okay and the commission has blessed what I mentioned in the Grove part, and I think most
23 people will be happy on that change. If we had to go into the Grove. This area here is a natural

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1 for the commissioner having — and by the way I never from 2000 until today, anybody from the
2 Grove objecting that this area is being taken away from a natural area next door. And District 2,
3 1 and 2, across US 1 to balance it.

4 That's beside the point now. This whole area here which is a very rich area of voters that
5 own their own homes, like the rest of Commissioner Reyes's district. Hispanic. 10-acre park. A
6 lot of movies that you're going to have to do. But he's only going to get a slice, sliver, here in
7 this part of the Grove, of areas that are not as Hispanic like the rest of his district. Now going up
8 this way, I believe you had given me to square off on 27th Avenue, this piece here. For
9 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla's.

10 Commissioner Reyes: It is right here. [Inaudible 4:29:52.] It's a sliver.

11 Commissioner Carollo: Right, but. No, no, but on top here the sliver that you gave me
12 from Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla's district is from 27th Avenue to 22nd to Miami River to
13 NW 7th Street.

14 Mr. De Grandy: That's correct.

15 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, You should leave that in Commissioner Díaz de la
16 Portilla's district. I think you gave him these two slivers to go in a straight line.

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: From 3rd to 7th.

18 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah.

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: From 3rd to 7th.

20 Unidentified speaker: Why can't we stay on the north of US 1, I don't understand. The —

21 Commissioner Carollo: I would, you know — where it would make sense bring it straight
22 to this other one here. Then the bottom part of this or the top part — both depending on how it
23 pans out — together with this piece, you give to District 3.

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1 Commissioner Reyes: No, no, no, no.

2 Commissioner Carollo: Well yeah, but see that's the whole thing, you're getting more
3 than two squares here. In prime Hispanic area and you're diluting the Hispanic vote.

4 Commissioner Reyes: Now you're getting into my district. I knew it, I knew it, that
5 sooner or later you're gonna jump in. I knew it, I knew it, I knew it.

6 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, but Commissioner I'm looking into the future and —

7 Commissioner Reyes: And I'm looking into the future —

8 Commissioner King: Gentlemen, gentlemen, Gentlemen?

9 Commissioner Carollo: You're looking good. You're looking into your election.

10 Commissioner King: Hello?

11 Commissioner Carollo: Not the future of the others. I'm term limited. I don't run again.

12 Commissioner King: Gentlemen wait, if I may. Wait, wait. Gentlemen If I may.

13 Commissioner Reyes: Then we'll go — I know that you have a scalpel and you're trying
14 to carve your way back to one.

15 Commissioner King: Listen, listen, if I may. We have addressed this

16 Commissioner Carollo: Well, that's just exactly what you're doing.

17 Commissioner Reyes: Well no, no, that's not what I've done.

18 Commissioner King: We have addressed this. We have addressed this and Mr. De Grandy
19 has his clear instructions and he will coming back to us individually —

20 Commissioner Carollo: Now, Mr. De Grandy, but I want to be clear in the instructions
21 Commissioner and we have to be clear because look, I don't care on what District 3 could have.
22 What District 1, what District 4. What I care is that in the future, there is sufficient Hispanic
23 votes there to elect a Hispanic. And a Hispanic that is not going to be a lap dog for anybody.

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1 Commissioner King: Right.

2 Commissioner Carollo: From those districts and the only way that you could find that
3 balance is within these three districts. Now, District 4 got a huge chunk of rich Hispanic voters.
4 Not just in population, but voters, because these are people that own homes. To balance for the
5 future these other two districts, there has to be a balance. What I saw that Mr. De Grandy did, he
6 went into Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla's district and he got this small chunk here for District
7 3. Then he only went a couple of blocks from 9th Street and purposefully it was cut off even
8 before you get to this park so that this park stays still in District 4. Now, I would have understood
9 it more if he would have gone deeper, but then deeper you're getting more into the Shenandoah
10 area, that I know that Commissioner Reyes has worked, he prefers it for the park. This is why
11 I'm talking about going here. There are no parks to be messed with, even though they're are
12 small here. So that this district, whoever the commissioner is, four years from now, into the
13 future in D1, you have sufficient Hispanic voters in that district, because the one district that is
14 in most danger into the future of losing a Hispanic representative is District 3 because while the
15 numbers and population are extremely high Hispanic, the number of voters are not that high,
16 because you have a lot of illegal immigrants, you have a lot of new residents that live there and
17 don't vote.

18 So, all that I'm trying to do is balance this out for the future. I'm not running again, so it
19 doesn't matter to me. The only way it could be done is within this district. Commissioner Reyes'
20 District is still gonna be highly, highly Hispanic. That there is not gonna be any problem for him
21 or any other Hispanic after him to get elected there. Even with those cuts, right now, the
22 performance for Hispanic votes is way above what District 3 is or what District 1 is. This is why
23 I'm making these observations.

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1 Commissioner King: Okay.

2 Mr. De Grandy: May I make a suggestion?

3 Commissioner Reyes: Observation well taken.

4 Commissioner King: Who said that?

5 Commissioner Reyes: Observations well taken.

6 Mr. Hannon: We have him on the record.

7 Mr. De Grandy: May I make a suggestion before —

8 Commissioner Reyes: Observations well taken I also suspected that I knew it. But I think
9 that we have to wait until the experts come in and I mean that I can give you another part of my
10 district you see.

11 Commissioner King: I agree with Commissioner Reyes that —

12 Commissioner Reyes: What I think is, what I think is that we are just turning everything
13 around, are going against what he has proposed, and I don't mind working out in a way that we
14 can make it as Hispanic as you can, because it is Hispanic right now, it's quite Hispanic. Your
15 part on that area, it is quite Hispanic.

16 Mr. De Grandy: Madam Chair?

17 Commissioner King: Commissioner

18 Commissioner Reyes: Yes, ma'am.

19 Commissioner King: Mr. De Grandy wants to.

20 Mr. De Grandy: May I make a suggestion because as I understood as you were
21 discussing, If I were give Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla back his potion. Give the portion that
22 I gave to Díaz de la Portilla from 4 into Carollo, we're talking now about another 7 or 8 blocks
23 difference from what Commissioner Carollo is saying, because I'm already gonna give him what

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1 I gave Díaz de la Portilla. So we're talking about —

2 Commissioner Reyes: Well, let's do one thing, the one thing that I hate. It is that always
3 you see, he comes around and he wants to cut it his way. You see, that is not the way it works.

4 Commissioner Carollo: What do you mean my way?

5 Commissioner King: Okay.

6 Commissioner Carollo: I was very up front about it.

7 Commissioner Reyes: No, no, no, wait a minute, wait a minute.

8 Commissioner King: Okay, whoa, oh, oh, oh.

9 [Crosstalk]

10 Commissioner King: Wait, wait, wait. Wait, wait, wait, wait. We're not going to, we're
11 not going to get into that. You have clear instructions on what needs to be done. I think
12 Commissioner Russell would like to say something, then I will recognize.

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: What happened to your order?

14 Commissioner King: Well because he had his hand up a while and this started with going
15 across US 1 so let's have Commissioner Russell, then Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla. Then
16 we have to come to a consensus and end this meeting because we could be here until tomorrow
17 going on this.

18 Commissioner de la Portilla: But if you let me, I think we're done.

19 Commissioner King: Okay but let me let Commissioner Russell be heard. Commissioner
20 Russell.

21 Commissioner Russell: Thank you, I just have a final question for Mr. De Grandy that
22 can give my residents some potential preview of what we're looking. The motion that passed
23 was to consider moving south. Do you believe that you could equalize the districts within the

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1 legal amount of deviation without disturbing the boundaries of Coconut Grove.

2 Mr. De Grandy: Yes. Only if I go from Mr. Carollo's district into downtown. That's the
3 only way I could do it.

4 Commissioner Russell: But it's possible then, thank you.

5 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Madam Chair.

6 Mr. De Grandy: That's a policy issue for you all to make.

7 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: But it's already been — Mr. De Grandy that policy
8 decision has already been made by this Commission.

9 Mr. De Grandy: Okay.

10 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: So you understand the policy decision that this
11 commission made.

12 Commissioner Russell: It has so?

13 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: That has been made in a motion absolutely. It's been
14 made on it. It passed 4 to 1. So it's already been made and it passed 4 to 1. So I think the best
15 thing to do to avoid any further debate is that we end the meeting and he already knows what he
16 needs to do. He knows he has the dates and yes —

17 Commissioner Carollo: I do need one question from him.

18 Commissioner King: Go ahead.

19 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, thank you. Mr. De Grandy in the small area from 9th Street
20 down, that you brought me down, I think it was to 11th Street just below this park. So it would
21 not fall into District 3. What is the population of this small area there, and then what was the
22 population of Díaz de la Portilla's area on top that you gave to me?

23 Mr. De Grandy: The movement that we made from District 4 to District 1, had 2,500.

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Commissioner Carollo: Then hold on from District 4 to District 3.

Mr. De Grandy: Right, I'm just telling you since you also asked for that one. That's from

4. Then from 1 to 3, is that what you're looking for?

Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, and the 1 from 3, those two.

Mr. De Grandy: Okay, the 1 to 3 was 2,897,

Commissioner Carollo: The 1 to 3 was what?

Mr. De Grandy: 2,897.

Commissioner Carollo: 2,897, which voters — okay it's less.

Mr. De Grady: The one from 4 to 1 and that's why I was saying —

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: He wants 4 to 3, he wants 4 to 3

Mr. De Grady: Yeah, but that's — if I could take a second. That's why I'm saying Commissioner Reyes, Commissioner Carollo, you're really off by about 7 or 8 streets once I give Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla back his area, and give the area I gave to Díaz de la Portilla into Carollo. You're almost there. Let me now answer your question.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Mr. De Grandy, I'm sorry Madam Chair. That's not what Commissioner Carollo is asking. He wants to see if the number comes close to the 2,897 from 4 to 3. Right Commissioner Carollo?

Commissioner Carollo: Yes.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes.

Mr. De Grandy: From 4 to 3 that is 4,232.

Commissioner Carollo: How much?

Mr. De Grandy: 4,232.

Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: How about if I may ask a follow up to that same

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1 question. What happens of the area you give between 32nd and 37th going to US 1 to
2 Commissioner Reyes that now belongs to Commissioner 2, the Commissioner from the second.
3 The Douglas Park area that you give to District 4 that you take away from District 2.

4 Mr. De Grandy: Just to Douglas Park without crossing US 1?

5 Commissioner Carollo: That whole area that he got from the Grove over.

6 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: That whole area —

7 Mr. De Grandy: That whole area without crossing US 1 is 10,496.

8 Commissioner Carollo: 10,496, okay. Now the two slivers that you gave District 1 from
9 District 4, if you could address each of the slivers. The one you want to give me back now, how
10 many people did it have, 4 blocks.

11 Mr. De Grandy: Commissioner the one that I gave from D4 to D3 —

12 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: No, D1.

13 Commissioner Carollo: No, D1 now you gave me the D3.

14 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: NW 3rd Street north.

15 Mr. De Grandy: Then the one from D4 to D1 is what you want?

16 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, there's two. Break them down into the two parts.

17 Mr. De Grandy: D4 to D1 is 2510 people.

18 Commissioner Carollo: 2510, and then the other piece. There were two small pieces.

19 Mr. De Grandy: It went from 4 to 1 there was only one piece.

20 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: One census tract but two precincts. I think it was one
21 census tract, right?

22 Mr. De Grandy: Yeah, it's basically one movement went from 4 to 1.

23 Commissioner Carollo: Well, you had two pieces, you had from here, to here, to here.

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1 Mr. De Grandy: Right, I consider that one movement.

2 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, one movement.

3 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: That total is 2,510 correct? Mr. De Grandy?

4 Mr. De Grandy: Yes.

5 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: That whole sliver from 3rd Street to 7th Street, yeah
6 that part. Is 2,510.

7 Mr. De Grandy: 2, 510.

8 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Okay that's it.

9 Commissioner King: Okay, can we —

10 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: This is the danger of doing a map on the dais.

11 Commissioner King: Right because here we're doing it from here so can we wrap this.
12 You will meet with each individual commissioner and answer all questions that they have
13 remaining so we can —

14 Commissioner Carollo: My question is: What 4 gave to 1 you guys are you got those two
15 slivers into one. So it's 2,510, correct?

16 Mr. De Grandy: That's correct. I don't have it divided in two. I have it as one and it's
17 2510.

18 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, all right. The other sliver that's next to it. The one that you
19 left out and its gonna make it kind of odd to begin with, which is the last piece here from 37th
20 Ave.

21 Mr. De Grandy: 27th.

22 Commissioner Carollo: No, no, no. Mine is here. This is 27, 32, so it would be from 37th
23 to going back, you know this piece here. On the white 37th actually it would be the one on top.

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1 This piece here: how many people does it have? Those seem to have too many.

2 Mr. De Grandy: That I would have to get you data, I don't have the data for that. But
3 what I can tell you is I went down when I gave those —

4 Commissioner Reyes: I don't want you to add all that he's asking how much — How
5 much is, isn't it correct.

6 Mr. Hannon: We need to hear you on the microphone sir.

7 Commissioner Reyes: How much are you giving to 3 from 2.

8 Commissioner King: Gentleman can these questions be asked and answered —

9 Commissioner Reyes: Absolutely, that's what I want to do. Let's wait because if you are
10 adding only what I'm getting from everybody else well what are you getting from 2, what are
11 you getting from 2 —

12 Commissioner King: The questions will continue, the questions will just continue.

13 Commissioner Reyes: Okay, so that's it.

14 Commissioner King: As he answers, you'll have more questions.

15 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, but we haven't then checked out what you're getting in
16 the Coconut Grove segment too. That's the problem.

17 Commissioner Russell: Madam Chair I'm ready to have lunch.

18 Commissioner King: Yes, yes, me too. Or dinner. If I may can we adjourn this meeting?

19 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Yes ma'am.

20 Commissioner Reyes: Yes. Move it.

21 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Move to adjourn.

22 Commissioner Carollo: Mr. De Grandy, you understand the concerns.

23 Mr. De Grandy: I think you're very close up there. If I'm correct once I move his back,

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1 his back and —

2 Commissioner King: Yes, or no, yes or no, yes or no.

3 Commissioner Carollo: And from what I saw of the numbers you gave me, correct me if
4 I'm wrong District 4 has 2,000 plus people.

5 Mr. De Grandy: 1,973, 2.23

6 Commissioner Carollo: Yeah, 2,000 plus more so you can work that down if need be.

7 Mr. De Grandy: I can.

8 Commissioner Carollo: And adjust it. I'm down in population.

9 Mr. De Grandy: Sure.

10 Commissioner Carollo: While he's up. Okay.

11 Mr. De Grandy: I think I can work that out. To both of your satisfaction.

12 Commissioner Carollo: Okay, all right sir.

13 Commissioner King: Okay.

14 Commissioner Carollo: There's a motion to second.

15 Commissioner King: All in favor?

16 Commissioner Carollo: Aye.

17 Commissioner Díaz de la Portilla: Aye.

18 Commissioner King: Meeting Adjourned.



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